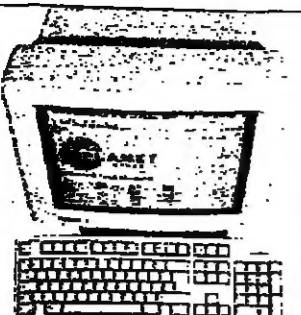


## INTERFACE

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## Still in the black

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## Turn again Jenkins

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## Varsity thriller

Cambridge's last-minute triumph  
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## Seat at risk after MP dies

# Major faced with majority of just three

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Government was last night facing the likelihood of its Commons majority being cut to three in the new year after the sudden death of the senior backbencher Sir David Lightbown.

Sir David, MP for Staffordshire South-East, died after collapsing at the Varsity rugby match at Twickenham.

His majority of 7,192 over Labour at the last election looks highly vulnerable and many Conservative MPs accept that they will lose the seat. But Conservative sources said that John Major's determination to fight on until the spring of 1997 would be unaffected, even if the seat is lost.

They pointed out that the Labour Government in October 1974 began with a majority of three and it managed to carry on for almost five years. Mr Major led the tributes to Sir David, 63, the burly ex-shipyard worker who gained a reputation for striking terror into the hearts of Tory rebels but was also regarded as a genial and kind personality.

Mr Major said: "David was a splendidly unique character, unmistakable in the corridors and lobbies of the House that was so much part of his life. He was an original."

Senior ministers accepted that the loss of Sir David would make it even more crucial for the Government to avoid contentious legislation and Commons debates which could bring it into conflict with its backbenchers. The news of Sir David's death came on the day that the Government was reminded of



Sir David collapsed and died at the Varsity game

trouble ahead over Europe, as John Redwood, the defeated leadership candidate, began a campaign to persuade business of the disadvantages of a single currency. He found himself immediately opposed by senior Conservatives such as Lord Howe of Aberavon and Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner.

The Prime Minister is walking a tightrope between those in his party who want a pledge to rule out Britain's membership of a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament and those who believe that such a commitment would be disastrous. Ministers admit that any vote that brought the two factions into open warfare cannot be contemplated.

With Sir David's death the majority falls to five. That will drop to four when Labour wins the Hensworth by-election caused by the death of Derek Enright and three if Labour takes Staffordshire South-East. However, the fig-

ure is not as bad as it looks. At the moment Sir Richard Body, the arch Euro-sceptic, is counted as an Opposition MP because he does not take the Conservative whip. Once he applies to rejoin the Tory parliamentary party, as most expect before the election, the Conservative majority will rise by two.

Even so the prospect that the Government may not be able to complete its term has inevitably increased as a result of Sir David's death. If a few more Tory MPs were to die and the Government were to lose a confidence vote, Mr Major would have to go to the country.

But a defeat on a confidence issue would happen only if all the Opposition parties were ranged against the Government. The present fragile position makes it even less likely that Mr Major will risk alienating the Ulster Unionists any further and that their position in the Northern Ireland peace process is strengthened as a result.

If the majority went, Mr Major would almost certainly be able to carry on for some time with a minority government.

When the Conservatives won the 1992 election Mr Major enjoyed a relatively comfortable cushion of 21 seats over all other parties combined. But the Tories have not won a by-election since the contest at Richmond, Yorkshire, in February 1989 — nearly seven years ago.

Major's plea, page 2



Lieutenant José Souvignat, left, and Captain Frédéric Chiffot in Zvornik, Bosnia, yesterday after their release from captivity

## Joyful return for freed French pilots

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE two French pilots held captive by the Bosnian Serbs for 103 days regained their liberty yesterday and last night walked unsteadily across the tarmac at a military air base outside Paris to receive a hero's welcome from President Chirac.

Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat were released after intense

last-minute negotiations, with their safe arrival on native soil the last remaining impediment to tomorrow's signing of the Bosnia peace agreement in Paris has been lifted.

The two airmen, whose Mirage 2000 jet was shot down over the Bosnian-Serb stronghold of Pale on August 30, were freed yesterday afternoon at Zvornik on the Bosnian frontier in the presence of General Jean-Philippe Douin, the French Army Chief of

Staff, and General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian-Serb forces.

President Chirac and the wives of the two men, Nathalie Chiffot and Isabelle Souvignat, were waiting to greet them as they touched down at Villacoublay military air base last night. The homecoming was broadcast live across France, where the fate of the airmen has evoked a great outpouring of sympathy, anxiety and support for their

families. The pilots, appearing healthy but haggard after their long captivity, smiled broadly as they emerged from the aircraft laid on by the French Government to be met by the President and Charles Millon, the Defence Minister. President Chirac then escorted the two officers to the air base terminal where they embraced their wives and families; the families were weeping with relief and exhaustion.

Both men were suffered leg

injuries after ejecting from their jet — Lieutenant Souvignat was limping when he emerged from the aircraft that brought them to Paris. On the flight to France they were examined by the President's doctor and after the brief and moving reunion with their families they were taken to a Paris hospital for a full medical check.

Russian pressure, page 13

## Move to delay single currency

John Major is to press his European partners at the Madrid summit on Friday to delay introduction of a single currency to beyond the planned starting date of 1999.

In a move aimed partly at averting a fresh bout of Tory civil war over Europe, Mr Major will advocate a detailed inquiry into the practicalities of launching a single currency in three years' time.

Page 2

## Plea to pupils by head's widow

The widow of murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence wrote to his pupils yesterday, imploring them to share the ideals of their murdered headmaster.

If his students grew up understanding the difference between right and wrong, his death would not be in vain. Frances Lawrence said in the letter, which was read over the school loudspeakers... Page 6

## Elton John award cut as ruling ends libel 'jackpots'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A £350,000 libel victory by rock star Elton John two years ago was cut to £75,000 yesterday in a landmark Court of Appeal ruling which could end the jackpot of excessive awards for defamation.

The award had been made after the *Sunday Mirror* had alleged that the songwriter was hooked on a bizarre "diet of death" which was a form of the slimming disease bulimia.

The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, said that the huge awards made by juries in libel cases bore "no relation to the ordinary values of life." Instead, juries should be given guidance in future by both judge and counsel on what damages to award, against a benchmark of damages in personal injuries cases.

At the top end of the scale,

this could bring awards down to the average compensation of £125,000 awarded to a quadriplegic for "pain, suffering and loss of amenity." Sir Thomas said it was "offensive to public opinion" that libel



Elton John: out of pocket after appeal

writers were awarded more than a "helpless cripple or insensate vegetable."

Nor did it serve any "public purpose to encourage plaintiffs to regard a successful libel action... as a road to untaxed riches."

The ruling means an end to the current lottery of libel awards which in a series of high-profile cases over the past few years have run into six figures, the highest being £1.5 million to Lord Aldington in his action against Count Tolstoy.

Judges in the past have given no guidance on what might be thought reasonable. Sir Thomas said. Juries were left to pluck figures from the air, like "sheep loosed on an unfenced common with no shepherd". In future, he said,

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Bottomley warning to lottery watchdog

By Arthur Leathley and Alexandra Frean

THE National Lottery regulator will be told by Virginia Bottomley to distance himself from lottery companies after his admission that he accepted free flights from one of the main bidders prompted calls for an investigation yesterday.

The Commons committee that questioned Peter Davis for five hours on Monday has demanded more details of the five flights he took during last year. Several MPs on the Public Accounts Committee said they were astonished by Mr Davis's admission that he had taken the flights to save taxpayers' money.

Although none called publicly for his resignation, several MPs predicted that any further damaging revelations would make his position untenable. Jack Cunningham, Labour's Shadow National Heritage Secretary, called on

Mrs Bottomley to investigate Mr Davis's conduct.

Dr Cunningham wrote to Mrs Bottomley: "Serious questions have been raised about GTEch. It is not clear that the regulator is in a position to deal with them."

Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin Group, yesterday challenged GTEch to sue him over his allegations that its chairman, Guy Snowden, offered him a bribe not to put in a rival bid to run the lottery.

Mr Branson told Radio 4's *Today* programme: "I would suggest to GTEch, since they are accusing me of lying, that they ought to issue writs today and let's let the courts decide who is telling the truth."

Robert Rendine, public relations director, said: "We are

Continued on page 2, col 6

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## On-the-spot fines of £40 for noisy neighbours

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

ROWDY neighbours will face instant fines of £40 if they refuse to heed warnings to tone down night-time revelry under a government crackdown announced last night.

But Christmas revellers can have one last final fling. The new offence will require legislation, which the Government cannot introduce until after the New Year celebrations. It will

apply to noises ranging from portable music systems to domestic machinery. The noise must exceed 35 decibels when measured in the complainant's house. The offence must take place between 11pm and 7am and persistent offenders could be fined up to £1,000.

Complainants can ring their local council. If the noise exceeds the limit, the council will be given a warning by health authority officer. If they ignore the warnings they could be fined.

The Department of the Environ-

ment said that 35 decibels is equivalent to the amount of noise generated by a television or radio in a room with closed windows on a busy street. It is also the standard set by the World Health Organisation as "necessary for the restorative process of sleep."

Other measures dealing with noise will include giving councils the power to confiscate music systems.

The announcement was made by James Clappison, the junior Environment Minister. "This measure repre-

sents a step step forward in tackling the problems of noise nuisance from domestic premises," he said.

The measures come after a growing number of complaints about noisy neighbours. The complaints average more than 300 a day nationwide. Court proceedings are unable to curtail night-time carousing. But the new fines still don't go as far as Labour proposals. They have promised legislation, which could mean a jail sentence of up to seven years.



JUST A SMALL ONE.

THE FAMOUS GROUSE  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

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# The 11th commandment: Thou shalt not be blunt

The Official Report confirms it. Yesterday Madam Speaker approved it. Moments before 10pm on Monday and, so far as we know, for the first time in history, the Chair permitted an Hon Member to call another Hon Member a liar.

Well, nearly. Modern versions of the Ten Commandments certainly render "bear false witness" as "lie". During Monday's debate on the second reading of the Asylum and Immigration Bill, an enraged Home Office Minister of State, Ann Widdecombe, applied the term to the Liberal Democrats' David Al-

ton (Mossley Hill). Miss Widdecombe did not lack provocation.

In a cheap and tasteless attack on the Home Secretary, Mr Alton had suggested that Michael Howard would have sent his own family back to Romania. The implication was that Howard's forebears, who were Jewish, would not have been granted asylum today because his new Bill places Romania on the Government's "white list" of inoffensive regimes.

But of course, Romania as it was would not be placed on any white list, so Alton's jibe was offside. He went on to



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

quote, unctuously, from Exodus: "Do not ill-treat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt."

Widdecombe's rage was plain. "He had the gall," she spat, "having launched that false attack, to quote Scripture. May I quote it back? Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

This prompted the quick-minded Gerry Bermingham

(Lab, St Helens South), a sharp-tongued barrister whose wheedling manner suggests a role as one of Westminster's Sadducees, to leap to his feet. "On a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker... has not the Hon Lady just called the Hon Member a liar? Should she not withdraw that remark immediately?"

It is quite true that in the chamber no MP should ever

call another MP a liar. Indeed, "hardly credible" was ruled out of order in 1881. "dishonest evasion" in 1945, "twister" in 1967 and "forked tongue" in 1978. The Chair has been uncompromising. The closest anyone has come to getting under the wire was in 1988 ("shameless lack of candour") and 1994 ("devoid of any truth").

In the 18th century, Richard Brinsley Sheridan MP (the playwright, ordered to withdraw the word "liar", retorted: "Mr Speaker, I said the Hon Member was a liar it is true and I am sorry for it. The Hon Member may place the

punctuation where he pleases". Sheridan got away with this and with "The Right Hon Gentleman is indebted to his memory for his jests and to his imagination for his facts". But as we noted last week, even "porkies" was ruled out in 1992.

So when Mr Bermingham returned to the charge during points of order yesterday, seeking the judgment of Madam Speaker herself on her Deputy's permissiveness the previous day, he expected teacher to take his side.

Not so. Miss Betty Boothroyd took Dame Janet Fookes's side. She had looked

at the record, she said, but had not placed Mr Bermingham's construction on what was said. Bermingham came fizzing to his feet a second time. Did that mean that as long as he quoted the Bible or Shakespeare, he protested, he could call people what he liked?

Miss Boothroyd muttered something soothing about us all having to rub along together as best we can and to take a tolerant view, etc. Bermingham subsided, spluttering.

"The quality of mercy is not strained," cackled Dennis Skinner.

## Judges block railway sell-off

The sale of the first two BR passenger franchises was blocked by the Appeal Court yesterday as the contracts were about to be signed.

After a late appeal from campaigners against the sell-off, three judges said they were not ready to rule on the issue until Friday and that in the meantime no franchise contracts were to be signed. BR had been planning to hand over control of LTS Rail and South West Trains.

The Save Our Railways group claims BR has acted illegally in setting minimum service requirements for private operators.

## Naomi inquest

Naomi Smith died of shock after her throat had been cut, an inquest at Nuneaton heard yesterday. She had been sexually attacked. The 15-year-old was killed after leaving her home in Austerly Common, Warwickshire, to post a letter just 100 yards away. A 19-year-old local man has been charged with murder and the inquest was adjourned pending the outcome of his trial.

## Veal calf victory

Animal charities won the right in the High Court yesterday to challenge in the European Court of Justice the Government's refusal to ban veal calf exports. The Agriculture Minister says it would breach EU rules if he stopped the trade on welfare grounds. The RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming and International Fund for Animal Welfare say he has misinterpreted EU law.

## Strangler jailed

A 20-stone man who strangled his girlfriend with one hand while he drove with the other was jailed for manslaughter for 12 years by Inner London Crown Court. Steven Parr, 38, of Wimbledon, said he killed Lorraine Spice by accident while trying to fight her off during an argument. He had previous convictions for violence against his former wife and for having a sawn-off shotgun.

## Road go-ahead

The National Trust said it was "gravely concerned" after the Government gave the go-ahead for the five-mile Chidcock to Morecombe A35 bypass through ancient meadows on protected Dorset coastline. John Watts, the Roads Minister, said environmental interests were being safeguarded by downgrading the road through the Golden Cap estate from dual to single carriageway.

## Child's courage

Jaymee Bowen, whose fight against leukaemia as Child B touched the nation, received an award for her courage. Jaymee, 11, from Sawbridge-worth, Hertfordshire, was presented with a Children of Courage medal by the Duchess of Kent at Westminster Abbey. Jaymee's plight was highlighted when Cambridge Health Authority refused to fund her treatment.

## Hamster's fare

A bus driver made a buy pay a 45p fare for a hamster he was carrying in a cage. Wayne Bass, 11, of Sheldon, Birmingham, was returning the animal to school at Solihull after the weekend. His own fare was 36p. The bus company, West Midlands Travel, later apologised and said that it would issue the hamster, called Sweep, with a free travel pass.

PM will urge Madrid summit to stop and think before risking a split in the Union

## Major puts brakes on Europe's drive for single currency

By Nicholas Wood and Philip Webster

JOHN MAJOR is to press his European partners at the Madrid summit on Friday to delay introduction of a single currency beyond the planned starting date of 1999.

In a move aimed partly at averting a fresh bout of Tory civil war over Europe, Mr Major will confront powerful European states by advocating a detailed inquiry into the practicalities of launching a single currency in three years' time.

Mr Major hopes that an inner core of likely candidates for a single currency led by Germany will be deterred from going ahead once they appreciate the friction that would be generated by divisive, competitive devaluations by other countries outside the core.

He will urge that the study covers the impact on the European Union single market, the agricultural policy, and the "cohesiveness" of the EU in the event of a handful of countries breaking away to launch a single currency.

He will argue that the present timetable is unrealistic. And although he expects

the final communiqué to reaffirm January 1 1999 as the starting date he hopes to have started a process that will lead eventually to delay.

Senior ministers believe that despite the current difficulties in France Chancellor Kohl and Jacques Chirac are personally determined to go ahead with a single currency and that the British Government must act on that expectation.

Ruling out membership of a single currency, as most sceptics want, would make it harder for Britain to warn its partners off the idea, they say. Mr Major's negotiating stance at Madrid was disclosed as the fragile internal truce over Europe was again upset. John Redwood triggered renewed of internal feuding over a single currency by publishing a booklet condemning the idea as a recipe for political and economic "turmoil".

The former Cabinet minister also renewed his call for the Prime Minister to rule out a single currency in the five-year lifetime of the next Parliament — which would mean

Britain could not join until after 2002 if the Tories won the election.

Mr Redwood's warning that a single currency would emasculate Parliament, rob the Chancellor of much of his control over taxes and spending, and risk job losses and permanently low rates of economic growth provoked a fierce riposte from leading pro-Europeans.

Tory party officials said that Mr Redwood's decision to speak out was a mistake because it could only inflame tensions within Conservative ranks. A statement issued by Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Foreign Secretary, Sir Leon Brittan, the UK's senior European Commissioner, and Lord Kingsdown, formerly Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, said that Mr Redwood's call for the Government to fight the next election on an anti-EMU ticket was "profoundly mistaken".

The statement said: "Any Conservative manifesto commitment against a single currency would inevitably divide the party, fuelling its electoral



John Major's advisers believe Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac are determined on a single currency

difficulties. It would set the Conservative leadership against major parts of UK business and finance, undermining the party's political base. Most importantly, it would deny any future Conservative government the capacity to share in what may prove one of the most important economic developments of coming decades.

"Once the Conservative party starts down the anti-EMU road, there is no going back. You cannot credibly chastise your opponents for wanting to 'abolish the pound' at one election and then say your

considered judgment is in favour of joining a single currency at the next.

"Opposing EMU for one Parliament would be tantamount to engineering a permanent and radical shift in the Conservative party against EMU. The Eurosceptics may understand this, which is why they want it so much."

After his meeting in Florence last week with Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, Mr Major believes that he may have found an important ally. While Italy wants to join a single currency, it recognises that its economy will not be in

shape to do so by 1999. For this reason, Mr Major thinks he may have Italian backing for a study, the outcome of which is likely to delay the timetable.

Mr Major appears to have moved against a pledge to rule Britain out of a single currency. Well-placed sources say that he is playing for bigger stakes. His aim is eventually to persuade his partners to abandon the idea of monetary union for the foreseeable future.

Such an outcome, he believes, would serve British interests better than the isolation and discord that would

flow from standing aloof from a single currency involving an inner core of countries centred on Germany.

Mr Redwood said at a press conference launching his booklet that he believed that France and Germany were "looking to bend the rules" over the conditions for joining a single currency.

He urged the Prime Minister to ensure that the criteria — covering public sector debt and borrowing, inflation, interest rates and exchange rate stability — were the "bare minimum". He added: "There should be no dilution at all."

## Lottery

Continued from page 1

Chief director of GTEch, said that Mr Snowden was so disturbed by the allegations that he had decided to "take a break" outside London for a few days. Although Mr Rendine insisted that Mr Branson's allegations about Mr Snowden were "grossly defamatory and completely untrue", he said the company was still consulting its lawyers: "Mr Branson has waited two years to come out with his evil smear. I think that the public will allow us more than two days to respond."

Mr Davis was not available for comment yesterday but a spokeswoman for Ofst said that he was still consulting Ofst's legal advisers about Mr Branson's claim that he had informed the regulator about a bribery attempt by GTEch. Mrs Bottomley is said to be relaxed about this allegation made by Mr Branson. "She finds it odd that these allegations should be made two years after the event," said a colleague.

Mr Davis was appointed in 1993 by Peter Brook, the former Heritage Secretary. His priority is to licence each National Lottery game and to monitor its operation.

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Leading article, page 19

## Damages cut

Continued from page 1

counsel in the case and the trial judge can put figures to the jury "to reflect the upper and lower bounds of a realistic bracket".

Libel awards are now likely to be brought into line with compensation made for personal injuries: an average £125,000 for quadriplegia; £90,000 for loss of sight; and £50,000 for loss of a limb.

Although many damages awards top £1m, these sums include special damages, which takes account of loss of earnings and the cost of nursing care. The recent "structured settlement" awards also run to millions but are paid over many years.

Yesterday's judgment was a victory for Mirror Group Newspapers which challenged the award under a new avenue of appeal against libel awards introduced by Lord Mackay of Clashfern under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

But Elton John has been left out of pocket, as the £75,000 award goes nowhere near covering his estimated legal costs of £120,000. He will also have to bear half the costs of the appeal (another £60,000) because he failed make any offer to accept a lower sum. The award to Elton John in

November 1993 included £275,000 "exemplary" damages to punish the *Sunday Mirror* for publishing a totally untrue story. Jurors accepted his claim that the story was printed recklessly without regard to the truth and with the main eye on boosting sales of the newspaper for profit.

But payment of the rarely awarded punitive damages was suspended pending an appeal by Mirror Group Newspapers, and yesterday the appeal judges held that the total award was "manifestly excessive".

They cut the exemplary award to £50,000. This, they said, was sufficient to reflect the gravity of the newspaper's conduct and deter others. They also reduced the remaining £75,000 compensatory award to £25,000. Although the article was false, offensive and distressing, it did not attack the star's personal integrity or damage his reputation as an artist, the court ruled.

Peter Carter-Ruck, the libel lawyer, said the ruling would have a "very salutary effect" on the size of libel awards. But he criticised the award of costs which lands Elton John out of pocket. "There should be a suitors' fund paid for out of court fees which can fund appeals," he said.

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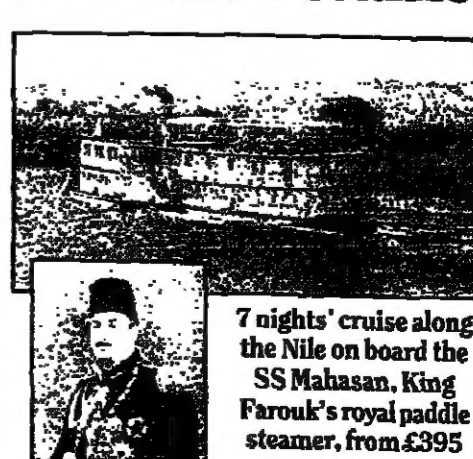
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Police set up helpline for women

# Life for rapist who may have claimed up to 100 victims

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MAN believed to be one of Britain's worst serial rapists, with up to 100 victims, received five life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday. Last night detectives set up a special helpline and appealed for other women attacked by Victor Willoughby to come forward.

For 12 months Willoughby, 30, often posing as a cab driver, had haunted night buses and scoured the streets for victims. He was told by the Common Sergeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, that his attacks on eight women at the centre of sample charges "were all of the most appalling ferocity".

Detective Superintendent Duncan MacRae described Willoughby after his conviction as "the most dangerous serial sex offender I have ever come across".

He said: "We are dealing with the tip of the iceberg. We have already investigated 17 rapes and I wouldn't be surprised if the total went into three figures. We believe out there are more of his victims and we clearly would like to hear from them. We trust that because of the conviction and sentence they will feel able to come forward."

Police have set up a helpline (0181-733 3843) staffed by women officers familiar with the case. Two of his victims, both students, joined the police appeal for other women attacked by Willoughby to come forward.

"It is a difficult thing to do, but we have received sensitive treatment from the police and the court," said one, aged 22. She added that what had happened "has changed me and my life. It has made me rethink everything I do — like walking down the street, going out at night, everything."

"He hasn't stolen anything from me, but he has affected my life for the last year. I was so angry I was determined to go through the court case."

The other victim, aged 21,

said her ordeal had made her more cautious, but had not altered her trust and relationships with men. "If you judge every man on what Willoughby did, you would lead a very shallow life," she said.

Willoughby, watched by the two women, showed no emotion as the jury convicted him of four rapes, a burglary, three indecent assaults, false imprisonment, robbery, attempted robbery and dangerous driving — at one point he had escaped a police surveillance operation by speeding



Willoughby: stalked women late at night

off at 100mph. His campaign began two months after his release from prison in 1993 for a previous assault and was centred in the area surrounding Willesden Green underground station in northwest London.

The judge said that Willoughby, from Tottenham, north London, was convicted on overwhelming evidence. He received life sentences for each of the rapes and the burglary, which occurred between October 1993 and October 1994, and was jailed for ten years for the indecent assaults, ten for false imprisonment, eight for robbery and attempt-

ed robbery and 12 months for dangerous driving — all to run concurrently.

His victims, aged between 16 and 47, had all been on their way home after an evening out and were subjected to degrading sexual assaults. One remembered the distinct smell of a hair gel during her ordeal. When arrested, Willoughby had the same sort of gel in his hair, a sample of which was matched by DNA testing to semen found after several of the attacks.

In some attacks the hooded rapist hid behind bushes or in the shadows and pounced on his victims from behind, dragging them into alleyways and, on one occasion, into a churchyard. He threatened violence and "each woman was so frightened they offered relatively no resistance", said Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution. Only one woman managed to fight him off.

Because so many of the rapes were committed within a half mile radius of Willesden Green Underground station, police took to discreetly following lone women home in case Willoughby struck. The hourly night bus that came through the area was regularly tailed by unmarked police cars and plain-clothed women officers were deployed in an attempt to lure him into striking.

Willoughby lived with his common-law wife, who suspected nothing, and their two-year-old daughter. The jury took just two hours to find him unanimously guilty of all charges.

A male juror was discharged during the trial after one of the rape victims said she thought he was following her. As Willoughby was led to the cells, Judge Denison told the remaining five women and six men that he had discharged the juror because one witness thought he had been following her during a lunch adjournment. Police are investigating.



Watching her figure: a longing glance from Dr Kissinger as the Princess moves a plate of chocolates beyond reach of temptation

## Long reach of the Prince and Princess

By QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK AND EMMA WILKINS

THE Prince of Wales went on to the Internet with a speech about ethics and the environment yesterday. Just hours after his estranged wife burst into turn-of-the-century poetry to collect a Humanitarian of the Year award. Both foresaw a kinder world.

At St James's Palace, the fifth anniversary meeting of the Prince's Business Leaders Forum attracted more than 200 businessmen from 26 countries to hear speakers including Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Development Minister and Jonathan Porritt, the environmentalist.

The Prince's high-tech speech told how co-operation from business had brought millions of pounds for social and environmental projects in developing countries, so that his organisation should no longer be described as experimental.

The Princess of Wales was arriving back from New York by Concorde, after collecting the humanitarian award for her charity work, at an £850-a-head event for 1,000 guests in aid of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The Princess, had worn



On line: the Internet site displaying a message from the Prince

a figure-hugging black evening gown with a plunging scoop neckline, brushed off a woman who beckoned during her acceptance speech.

The woman interrupted by shouting: "Where are your children, Diana?" The Princess calmly replied: "At school."

The Princess said she was humbled by the award which she wished to share with parents, nurses, doctors and charity workers throughout the world. She then quoted the American poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox, best

known for her lines: "Laugh and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone." On this occasion, she chose a four-line verse. *The World's Need*, which says: "So many Gods, so many creeds. So many paths that wind and wind. While just the art of being kind is all the sad world needs."

In a confident speech, the Princess said: "There are two basic ingredients that define us as human beings — sharpness of mind and kindness of heart. Today is the day of compas-

sion. Let's not wait to be prompted. Let us demonstrate our humanity now. Let us not wait to be asked."

Guests at the event included Dr Henry Kissinger, General Colin Powell, Donald and Maria Trump, the TV journalist Barbara Walters, Randolph Hearst, and Sir John Kerr, the British ambassador.

Dr Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, greeted the Princess with a kiss and praised her "luminous personality".

He said: "She is here as a member of the Royal Family. But we are honouring the Princess in her own right, having aligned herself with the ill, the suffering and the downtrodden."

Afterwards, the woman who had heckled at the dinner told reporters that she made the remark because she could no longer bear to be "lectured by the Princess on humanitarian issues".

Dr Ruth Westheimer, the diminutive American sex therapist who took the opportunity to be introduced to the Princess, took a further opportunity for promotion by telling reporters: "I'm there if the Princess ever feels the need to talk."

## Soldier admitted killing Danish guide in Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

ONE of three British soldiers accused of killing a Danish woman admitted doing so in a statement read by police in court yesterday.

In the statement, Alan Ford, 26, of Birmingham, described in detail how Louise Jensen, 23, a tour guide, from Hirthals, was battered to death with a spade after she was kidnapped near the southeast tourist resort of Ayia Napa on the night of September 12 last year.

"I was very scared and very drunk," Ford said in a statement he signed two days after the killing. "I couldn't think rationally. I don't remember picking up the spade but I hit her on the head with the flat side just hard enough to knock her unconscious."

"It didn't work as she shouted something in [a] foreign [language]. Up until then I didn't even know where she was from. I hit her again and she slumped sideways."

"I know she wasn't dead because I could still hear her breathing. She looked like she was asleep. There didn't appear to be any blood on her at that point."

Ford then tried to implicate the other two accused, who were with him at the time, adding that "somebody grab-

bed the spade and pushed me away. Stunned, I couldn't move and my eyes would not look away from her face, then the spade hit her. I think her neck, and again and again... I didn't look who was hitting her."

The statement went on to describe how Miss Jensen was hurriedly buried by the three accused in a shallow grave in a field. Her battered and naked body was found two days later when the accused led police to the site.

The three soldiers were arrested at a police roadblock with bloodstains on their clothes about 90 minutes after Miss Jensen's Cypriot boyfriend reported her abduction. They have pleaded not guilty to manslaughter, kidnapping and conspiracy to rape.

The other accused are Justin Fowler, 26, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Jeff Parnell, 23, of Oldbury, West Midlands. All three were in the dock as a police officer read the statement.

Ford's lawyer claimed the statement was inadmissible on the grounds that he had not been read his rights and that he was tricked into making it. The three-judge court overruled him.

The trial continues.

## Schoolgirl's killer 'had fantasies about the dead'

By KATE ALDERSON

THE killer of schoolgirl Nikki Conroy fantasised about necrophilia, applied three times to be a mortuary attendant and wrote a novel featuring maidens slain in a classroom, a court was told yesterday.

Stephen Wilkinson, 31, has denied murdering Nikki, 12, at Hall Garth school in Middlesbrough in March 1994 but has admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility and the attempted murders of Emma Winter, 12, and Michelle Reeve, 13.

On the second day of the trial at Leeds Crown Court, Dr Laurence Naismith, a consultant psychiatrist who interviewed Wilkinson in custody, said he believed the accused had paranoid psychosis. Called as a defence witness, he told the court: "I would take the view that this did not substantially diminish his responsibility for his actions."

He agreed with the prosecution under cross-examination that Wilkinson was "very severely mentally ill in March 1994".

During the meetings, Wilkinson talked about the violent fantasies in his head and in his voluminous poems, short stories and other papers. He told the doctor he had never fantasised about harm-

ing children but Dr Naismith identified passages in his writings where "children are clearly harmed".

He read passages to the court from a short story written in December 1986 called *That Tears Shall Drown the Wind*. The story included the lines: "How I loathe adolescents. If I had been stronger I would have taken my knife to stab the insolent [sic] wretches. I would have marched into the classroom and silenced their tongues forever," and "I imagined the desks of young maidens staine [sic] in a room choked with their desks."

Dr Naismith added that Wilkinson had written an *Ode to Necrophilia* and had applied on three occasions for the post of a mortuary attendant. He described Wilkinson as a man who had had no sexual experiences, could not relate to other children at school and began playing truant regularly from the age of 13. He left school at 16, the same year his parents split up.

He lived with his father for many years at the family home in Middlesbrough and read *Macbeth*, *Crime and Punishment* and James Herbert horror novels.

The trial continues.

## Horn player tells of pact with lover

By EMMA WILKINS

A MOTHER told a jury yesterday that she fulfilled a lover's pact by abandoning the body of an elderly trombonist after he died in compromising circumstances.

Pollyanna Peate, 34, from Rumcorn, Cheshire, who is accused of the manslaughter of Brian Phillips, 62, said he gave strict instructions that if anything happened to him while they were together, she should leave immediately.

Mrs Peate, who is married with two children, told Chester Crown Court that she regularly made love with Mr Phillips after they left evening rehearsals of the Frodsham Silver Band. Mrs Peate plays the euphonium and her lover was a trombonist. It is alleged that Mrs Peate struck Mr Phillips at least four times, dislodging his dentures and causing a

black eye, after he told her their ten-year relationship was over.

Mr Phillips, a grandfather, suffered a heart attack and died. His body was found by a policeman on the back seat of his car which was parked on Frodsham marshes, near the Mersey Estuary.

Mrs Peate, who denies manslaughter, told the court that she was reluctant to agree to the pact with Mr Phillips. "He told me to leave him, take money from his pocket for a taxi, run like hell and not tell anyone. I did say once I could not do it and he said, 'If you love me you would carry out what I ask.'"

Mrs Peate met Mr Phillips ten years ago when he was a visiting player with the Western Point Band, of which she was a member. "He was there when I went to rehearsals. I liked him when I first saw him," she said. A romantic

relationship had soon begun. "He asked me if I wanted to have a blow at Frodsham Silver Band so I agreed."

"The first time I had sex with him was at the marshes, in the back of his car, nearly ten years ago. I never had sexual intercourse with him anywhere else," she said. "We would go to the marshes after band practice basically every Monday and Tuesday. We wouldn't always have sexual intercourse."

Dr Edward Tap, a Home Office pathologist, earlier told the court that Mr Phillips's heart condition meant he could have collapsed at any time. "The factor which caused the heart attack cannot be proved beyond reasonable doubt," he said in a letter read out in court. The heart attack could have resulted from a fight or the exertions of sexual activity. The trial continues.

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## Doctors condemn alcohol advice

# Dorrell advises the middle-aged to start drinking

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE Government raised recommended safe drinking levels yesterday and for the first time suggested that middle-aged abstainers might be healthier for a daily drink.

The new advice, based on evidence that moderate drinkers live longer and are less likely to die from heart disease, was not "a boozers' charter", Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said. The purpose was simply to ensure that people should be properly informed about the sensible use of alcohol.

The new limits were welcomed by the drinks industry, but attacked by the British Medical Association as "irresponsible and badly timed".

The advice, contained in a report from an inter-departmental working party, is that there are no health risks for men over 40 in drinking up to four units of alcohol a day, and for women up to three units a day. The old limits were set at 21 units a week for men, and 14 for women. A unit is a glass of wine or half a pint of beer.

Establishing a daily rather than a weekly benchmark is designed to discourage "binge drinking" and makes the point that, while regular moderate drinking has health benefits, concentrating all the units into the weekend is dangerous.

Mr Dorrell denied that the message could be confusing at a time when the Government was also campaigning against drink-driving. "It doesn't

change the obvious," he said. "If you are at work, dealing with dangerous equipment, or driving, the safe intake is none. Otherwise, people are entitled to know what the science says about the safe level of alcohol consumption."

The working party, chaired by Geoffrey Pledger, head of the Health Promotion Division at the Department of Health, considered a wide variety of studies that have shown that moderate drinking can be beneficial to health, particularly in countries where heart disease is a major cause of death.

While heavy drinking has been linked to many diseases, including cirrhosis of the liver, some cancers, and high blood pressure, moderate drinking reduces the risk of heart disease, which kills about 7,000 a year in Britain. The working party concluded that both men and women could achieve maximum benefit by drinking between one and two units a day.

The damaging effects did not become apparent until four units a day for men, and three for women, with much lower limits appropriate for pregnant women.

The most surprising conclusion, however, is that middle-aged people who do not drink should "consider the possibility that light drinking might benefit their health". This is believed to be the first time that any official body anywhere has dared to hint that non-drinkers should consider starting.

Dr John Rae, director of the Portman Group, a drinks industry initiative against alcohol abuse, said: "The Government has got it exactly right. I really do think this report is a good reflection of the medical evidence. But people shouldn't read it as a licence to drink more — it is advice to drink more sensibly."

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA Council, said that the message was confusing and unhelpful and would be misunderstood and misinterpreted by the public. "Whatever the intention of the Government, relaxing the sensible drinking limits a week after the launch of the Christmas drink-driving campaign is both irresponsible and bad-

ly timed," Mr Dorrell said that once the report had been completed, he could see no logic in suppressing it because of the time of year. "I could have got the report and sat on it," he said, "but people are entitled to know what it says."

Dr Peter Anderson, of the World Health Organisation, attacked the new limits. He said they gave him grave concern because it was very likely that people would interpret the message as being that it was safe or even desirable to drink more than they already did.

"In my opinion the scientific evidence would show that if you are drinking at those levels of alcohol consumption, you are very likely to put your health at risk," he said.

Leading article, page 19



Dame Maggie Smith and Patsy Kensit, who presented Molly Dineen's award

## Lifetime award for Maggie Smith

The actress Dame Maggie Smith was presented with the Channel 4 Lifetime Achievement Award by Women in Film and Television yesterday. Dame Maggie, who won Oscars for her roles in *The Prime of Miss Jean*

*Brodie* and *California Suite*, received the award at a ceremony at the Dorchester in London hosted by Sandi Toksvig. The newsreader Sheena McDonald received the ITN News and Current Affairs award and

other winners included the film-maker Molly Dineen, who was honoured for her contribution to broadcasting. Women in Film and Television was set up to mark the achievements of women in both fields.

## French pest finds bottom line of law

By Kathryn Knight

A MAN who touched a woman's bottom in the street offered a special mitigation yesterday: he is French.

Marcel Boisson, a ski instructor, had "slightly different standards so far as these things are concerned", said Craig Robertson, appearing for him at York Magistrates' Court. "She smiled at him. He was excited by it and patted her on the outside of her skirt, nothing more."

Boisson, of Lacobe, in southwest France, admitted a charge of indecent assault. Mike Duffy, for the prosecution, said that the blonde woman had a different version of the events of Monday evening, in which Boisson followed her, grabbed her bottom and was detained by a member of the public after she screamed.

The case was adjourned until Friday to hear the woman's evidence. Boisson, who was due to return to France tomorrow, was ordered to stay at a bail hostel in the city until he is sentenced.

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## Million Britons face the party season with fear

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

AT LEAST one million Britons face a miserable time this Christmas. The colleague in the corner getting quietly plastered at the office party may not just be shy but suffering from a psychiatric disorder — social phobia — which affects 3 per cent of the population.

The condition, which can make meeting strangers, walking into a restaurant or even signing a cheque in public a terrifying ordeal, was described by specialists yesterday at a news conference to launch an advice leaflet published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Professor Malcolm Lader of the Institute of Psychiatry said the festive season was a particularly difficult time. The disorder can wreck lives but only one in ten sufferers receives treatment.

"Often sufferers will hang around the edges of a party and make excuses that the room is too crowded or hot rather than going in and mingling and having a good time. They often drink heavily to overcome their anxiety."

"It is very different from just being shy. The fear of these people has is unreasonable and excessive and manifests itself in symptoms such as trembling, sweating, palpitations, blushing and a dry mouth. The symptoms can get so severe sufferers have panic attacks and think they are having a heart attack. They will get pins and needles in their hands, pains in their chest and think they are going to die."

In extreme cases, the social phobic may be unable to eat with anyone else or write a cheque in public without their hand shaking so violently that the writing becomes illegible. Sufferers believe that they are

being scrutinised and evaluated whenever they go out and may withdraw from all social contact.

Professor Lader said the condition often appeared in the mid-teens and could last a lifetime. Sufferers were likely to be labelled as stupid or lazy at school, to have difficulty forming relationships and often drank heavily to cope with their fears.

Dr David Clarke of the University of Oxford said patients did not seek treatment because they believed it was a personality problem which they had to bear and that shyness was not something for which a GP could offer help.

However, social phobia is now an accepted medical condition which can be treated with a combination of cognitive therapy — exercises to help sufferers correct the distorted image they have of how they appear to other people — and drug treatment.

Ian Lennox, 36, a former local authority manager from Nottingham, said he had suffered social phobia for 14 years before his condition was recognised and treated.

"I dreaded people saying 'Good morning' because I wouldn't know what to say in reply. I made excuses to avoid going out. Even going to a quiet restaurant with my wife I felt everyone was looking at me. As soon as I lifted my knife and fork I thought everyone would see my hands trembling and they would call an ambulance and take me away in a straitjacket."

The leaflet "Social Phobia" is available free (enclose SAE) from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 11 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.



'I trust you to work to create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil'

## Wife tells pupils head's death need not be in vain

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE widow of Philip Lawrence wrote to his pupils yesterday, imploring them to share the ideals of their murdered headmaster and "to create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil".

If his students grew up understanding the difference between right and wrong, and believing that love should always overcome hatred, his death would not be in vain. Frances Lawrence said. The typewritten letter was read to the 440 students of St George's Catholic School over the loudspeakers.

In a hushed House of Commons, the Prime Minister led MPs in sending condolences to the stabbed man's family and friends. At the same time the Home Office published tougher punishments it wants imposed on people carrying knives.

Mrs Lawrence said she had been moved by the wishes and thoughts of the hundreds of people who had written to her. In the open letter to her husband's pupils in Maida Vale, northwest London, she thanked them for their messages of support.

"As midnight tolled last



Frances and Philip Lawrence pictured with their children, from left to right, Myfanwy, 17, Maroushka, 19, Lucien, 8, and Unity, 13. The photograph was issued by police

Friday, your head teacher, and my husband, lost his fight for life," she wrote. "Your sweet letters to me recognise that, in that moment, the world was deprived of a man of great strength, tenderness and profound understanding. You tell me how he gave you pride in your school and, even more importantly, in

yourself. You speak of his friendliness and humour.

"At home, he would share with me and our children his delight in your daily progress and his conviction that each one of you is a fine human being who has the potential to achieve great things. I share that conviction.

"Through your loving let-

ters, I can see how much you care about other people. I can see that you understand the difference between right and wrong and your belief that love should always overcome hatred.

"Your head teacher's - my husband's - death will not be in vain if you grow up with these ideals rooted firmly in

your hearts. I have heard so much about you all. I have found great comfort in your letters and comments. I should like to visit you in the New Year.

"Violence is not a knife in the hand. It grows, like a poison tree, inside people who, unlike yourselves, have not learned to value other human

beings. Now, I trust you to work as hard as you can, in school and at home, to create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil."

In Parliament, Sir Fergus Montgomery, Tory MP for Altrincham and Sale, told John Major: "The letter written by the small son of Philip Lawrence to Santa Claus was

one of the saddest and most moving letters that has ever been written by a child."

The Prime Minister replied: "I am sure the whole House will want to join me in sending our sympathies to the family and friends of Mr Lawrence after that dreadful event."

"The Government is at the moment considering what

more can be done. The Home Secretary has been consulting with the Association of Chief of Police Officers about whether harsher and further police powers are necessary in order to deal with the problem of knives and I hope he will be able to announce the outcome and perhaps new proposals in due course."

The Home Office wants people carrying knives to be arrested immediately and face a jail sentence of three months or a fine of £2,400. The maximum penalty for carrying an article with a blade or point is now a fine of £1,000.

Mr Major added: "The Secretary of State for Education and Employment is talking to teachers' representatives about the whole range of issues covering the safety of staff and pupils in our schools."

Detective Superintendent Brian Edwards, who is leading the murder hunt, appealed to the family, relatives and friends of anyone involved in the killing to telephone police on 0171-321 6755. Nearly 200 statements have been taken from teenagers and teachers.

Lessons returned to normal at St George's yesterday as pupils continued to take in floral tributes.

## Teachers 'face 'record level' of pupil violence

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

VIOLENCE in schools has reached record levels, according to a teacher union survey published yesterday. It also shows that many attackers escape expulsion.

Less than a week after the death of Philip Lawrence, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers published a record of more than 50 violent incidents. At least one involved threats to a teacher with a knife. Cases in which members of the union have refused to teach violent and disruptive pupils rose by more than a third this year.

Leaders of the NASUWT raised the issue with Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, the day before Mr Lawrence was stabbed. The union called for more referral units for excluded pupils and an end to the closure of special schools.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary, said the evidence suggested it was only a matter of time before another teacher was killed. Some staff were facing "budding young psychopaths". Yet appeals panels introduced in the mid 1980s were increasingly reluc-

tant to confirm expulsions. Mr de Gruchy said the figures were only the tip of a large iceberg. Teachers needed support "in their efforts to teach the majority of children who want to learn without fear of violent disruption".

He said appeals panels were being used by the parents of violent pupils to prevent expulsions, either by playing on the emotions of inexperienced members or using technicalities. "We warned at the time they were set up that the panels would not work, and we have been proved right."

Mrs Shephard has promised new measures to tackle indiscipline, including more use of referral units. But the number of expulsions has continued to rise, topping 10,000 last year.

Two teachers had to intervene to protect a 14-year-old boy after two intruders burst into a classroom. Two white youths who rained kicks and punches on an Asian boy were not pupils at the Bretton Woods Community School in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. After the two were ejected their victim was treated in hospital for bruising.

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Camelot dispute: how a lunch in Holland Park reverberated on the participants two years later

## Lottery firm entrepreneur leaves little to chance

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FOR A man who has made his fortune in the lottery game, Guy Snowden leaves few things to chance in his business life. Influential contacts are courted and charmed. Political friends are sought and sometimes hired.

Mr Snowden, 50, has an endless drive and an undeniable track record. He and Victor Markowicz, a mathematician, founded GTech in 1981 after buying a lottery company from their previous employer for \$4.3 million. They built the company into the biggest lottery concern in North America, earning gross profits last year of \$235 million, plaudits from Wall Street and making Mr Snowden and Mr Markowicz millionaires.

What critics ask, however, is whether this success is the result of hard work or the fruit of a complementary network of contacts in state governments, particularly in departments which decide where lottery contracts go.

Mr Snowden is a friend since childhood of New York's Governor, George Pataki. There is nothing to prove that Mr Snowden has benefited improperly from his links with the governor, but GTech's opponents are wishing they had such connections, just as they wish they had won recent business and pricing concessions under Mr Pataki's administration. Envy can breed suspicion.

GTech won part of a New York State lottery contract in the late 1980s. Nine months later it hired the lottery director who had been in office when that contract was awarded. In 1992, the company hired as its lobbyist a former gubernatorial patronage secretary. He quit when the arrangement became public knowledge.

In recent months GTech stopped making political donations, but Mr Snowden

seems to have a taste for political schmoozing and entertaining. In Britain he likes to shoot grouse, and perhaps wagers the occasional wad of banknotes on the horses (he used to be an owner).

The preferred picture is of a man who, even when relaxing, has his mind on the pursuit of success. His press aide, Robert Rendine, talks of "a thoughtful man whose success speaks to his vision and business acumen".

At odds with this balmy image sits the conduct of GTech's former chief salesman, J. David Smith, who once sent a festering piece of munition through the mail to an independent-minded Arizona lottery official. A note attached said simply: "Enjoy." The official later lost his job.

Arizona's attorney-general found that the parcel was sent "without sinister intent". Yet the sniping will not stop. There is the case of Sharon Sharp, a former Illinois lottery director whom a GTech executive referred to as "our gal".

And there was a court case this year in Kentucky when Mr Snowden declined, on behalf of GTech, to rebut fraud charges, claiming his constitutional right to silence. The charges did not stick, but a similar case will reach a New Jersey court next year.

As the Branson allegations hit the fan at the weekend, the Snowden home in Florida was a riot of balloons and party decorations — a seventh birthday for his daughter. Mr Rendine lets his voice adopt an outraged tone when he discloses that the GTech chief executive was forced to miss the little girl's big day. But when, or if, this whole sorry business is sorted out he intends to throw her another party, don't you worry.

Bottomley warning, page 1  
Leading article, page 19



John Jackson, left, Richard Branson and Guy Snowden discussed the National Lottery over lunch

### BRANSON'S VERSION

RICHARD BRANSON alleges that Guy Snowden of GTech attempted to bribe him over lunch at Mr Branson's home in Holland Park, west London, in September 1993. Mr Branson called the meeting to sound out GTech on the costs of running a lottery.

Mr Branson says he has "no doubt whatsoever" that Mr Snowden attempted to offer him a bribe to persuade him not to bid for the contract to run the National Lottery. According to Mr Branson, Mr Snowden had asked him: "In what way can I help you, Richard? I'm sure everybody needs something."

John Jackson, who was appointed Mr Branson's lot-

tery bid co-ordinator in May 1993, was also present at the lunch and has confirmed Mr Branson's version of events. Mr Jackson said that Mr Snowden made his offer during the sweet course and that it had precipitated the end of the meeting. "It was very apparent what had been said and Richard closed the meeting soon afterwards."

Mr Branson claims that he told Peter Davis, Director-General of Oflot, the lottery regulator, about the attempted bribe as the two men talked at a meeting in May 1994, shortly after Camelot won the lottery contract. No minutes were taken as the meeting had not formally started. Mr Davis denies this.

### GTech's VERSION

GUY SNOWDEN of GTech dismissed Richard Branson's plans to run the lottery as unworkable when the two men met for lunch, according to Jem Miller, a spokesman from GTech's public relations company, Lowe Bell. He said Mr Branson invited GTech to join his lottery bid, which he intended to run as a charitable concern, but Mr Snowden told Mr Branson that he did not believe it possible to make money on less than 13 per cent of the total receipts.

Mr Snowden informed Mr Branson that GTech could not join the Branson bid because it was already part of the Camelot consortium. He added that the only way they could be involved was for Mr Branson

to join the Camelot consortium.

Mr Miller denied Mr Branson's claim earlier this week that Sir Tim Bell, of Lowe Bell, had telephoned the Virgin chairman after the lunch to say that Mr Snowden had "overslept his mark" in his comments. During the meeting, he said Sir Tim had called the next day to say that Mr Snowden would ask Camelot if Mr Branson could join its bid.

Robert Rendine, GTech's director of public relations, denied Mr Branson's subsequent bribery allegations, describing them as an "evil smear" and an "unjustifiable attack" on Mr Snowden's personal integrity.

### THE PANORAMA ACCOUNT

PANORAMA scrutinised the business ethics of GTech, the American shareholder in Camelot. The programme claimed that payments to politicians in America by GTech "raise serious questions about the business practices".

It claimed that lobbyists for the company, which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot, paid a senator \$13,500 to try to kill a Bill in California. The Bill would have required the company to build a new factory. The senator was jailed.

The programme also alleged that \$759,000 was paid by GTech to two

officials in New Jersey who were related to an aide to the Governor. The company has been the subject of several corruption investigations but has been cleared of malpractice.

Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, was asked repeatedly if he was aware of the allegations when he assessed GTech's suitability to be involved in the lottery. He said that the company and its dealings had been analysed with the help of a range of experts. But he said that the investigations were confidential and he could not discuss them. The programme

disclosed that the company's start-up costs, which were due to be written off over five years, were written off over one. A £5 million deposit was made to a lottery fund earlier than was required.

Profits after 20 weeks were declared at £6.3 million. They would have been £26 million if accountancy changes had not been implemented. When the lottery began, Mr Davis predicted that Camelot would operate at a loss in its early years.

Panorama also accused Camelot of using its monopoly powers to beat off competition from rival scratchcards.

## 'Dull' watchdog bans family from gambling

BY JOANNA BAILE

BY HIS own admission, Peter Davis is a boring, middle-aged man who dislikes the risk of gambling. He trained as an accountant, climbed the corporate ladder in insurance and banking, and is so keen to avoid question marks over his Oflot chairmanship that he has forbidden his wife and sons to play the Lottery.

Vanessa Davis is said not to mind this ban, but their sons Timothy, 18, and Alexander, 20, a modern languages student at his father's alma mater, Lincoln College, Oxford, are reportedly rather disappointed by it.

Once asked what he would do with a multimillion-pound win if he had chosen to play, Mr Davis confessed nothing more than a desire to buy fishing rights in Ireland and Scotland so that he could pursue his love of fly fishing. He would then be "frantically boring" and enjoy the process of investing the rest.

Mr Davis, 54, once commanded a much higher private sector salary than his present £80,000. Home is a large, detached Edwardian house in one of the most prestigious areas of Wimbledon, southwest London, in a street where properties fetch more than £1 million. The substantial back garden has a tennis court. A bronze H-registrations Mercedes estate car and a battered grey Sierra were the only vehicles in the drive yesterday.

One neighbour said: "They are an ordinary, suburban couple really. They are nice people and very respectable. We all believe Mr Davis when he says he took those free flights to save taxpayers' money. That's typical of him. He doesn't go in for excess and enjoys looking after money, not spending it. He's an accountant, after all."

At the nearby Hurlingham Club, where Mr Davis is a member, one member said: "He has been chairman of one of our committees in the past, which means he is a stickler for tradition. If you are in any way radical, you never get anywhere on our

committees." Another of Mr Davis's sporting interests is watching football. He used to play for his school team at Winchester and now supports Wimbledon and Arsenal.

Reg Davis, a senior Wimbledon official, said: "Mrs Davis used to come and buy the tickets for Mr Davis and their two sons. They didn't go for private boxes, just ordinary seats."

"They are a delightful family, but since Mr Davis became involved in the lottery he has not been here. I think he didn't want to compromise his position because clubs have their own lotteries."

Mr Davis read law at university, and considered following his father Stanley to the Bar. Like his father, however, who progressed to a clothing business in Savile Row, he decided on an early career change and became an accountant. He was general audit partner at Price Waterhouse at 32, then executive deputy chairman of the carpet manufacturers Harris Queensway, deputy chairman of the insurance company Sturge Holdings and deputy chairman of Abbey National.

When appointed to Oflot, he severed his links with Abbey National to prevent any conflict of interest. He said: "I am committed to ensuring it is run with imagination, efficiency and complete integrity."



Davis began his career as an accountant



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# Millionaire held captive as robbers steal jewels

By ADRIAN LEE

A MASKED gang escaped with cash and jewellery after holding one of Britain's richest men and his family captive at their home, Eddie Healey, the multimillionaire developer of the Meadowhall shopping centre in Sheffield, was bound, gagged and handcuffed by four men.

The robbers evaded elaborate security measures at Westella Hall, the Healey family's home at Kirkella, Hull. Mr Healey, 57, his wife Carol, 50, and their sons, James, 20, and Mark, 23, were overpowered by the gang on Monday evening.

The men, wearing black hats, stocking masks, jumpers and jeans, were in the house for about half an hour before they left with what police said was a substantial amount of cash and jewellery. The alarm was raised when a friend called at the house.

None of the family needed hospital treatment, although one of Mr Healey's sons suffered slight facial injuries.



Healey: his family was bound and gagged

Police said the family was threatened before one son was assaulted and they were all handcuffed.

Detective Inspector Mick Hobson, of Hesse CID, said: "The family is bearing up well, but they were shocked and disturbed that this could happen in their own home."

Detectives will investigate how the gang, who are believed to have had a getaway car waiting on the nearby A164, broke into the house, defeating its sophisticated security system. Last night 20 officers were involved in the search.

Guards at the electronic gates of Westella Hall, which has its own gatehouse, a sweeping driveway and is set in a wealthy suburb of Hull, refused to comment. Mr Healey requested that no details about the robbery or his family should be released.

Mr Healey and his brother Malcolm have a combined fortune estimated at £300 million. Earlier this year they were ranked thirty-fifth in the annual list published by *The Sunday Times* of Britain's 500 richest people.

Eddie Healey, through his company Stadium City, still holds a stake in Meadowhall, whose value has been put at £500 million.

The brothers made their fortunes when they sold their business, Hyena Kitchens, to MFI in 1980.

Despite trying to keep a low profile, Eddie Healey has a reputation for throwing flamboyant and costly family parties. The raid happened two days after he celebrated his wife's fiftieth birthday at Carlton Towers near Gooles, the home of the Duke of Norfolk, by hiring the pop group Eternal and the comedian Freddie Starr.



Snow jumpers: Angela Guillem and Andrés Sánchez of the Barcelona Mounted Police introduce their horses to the rigours of an English winter in Hyde Park, London, yesterday. The Spanish team is making its debut at the International Show Jumping Championships at Olympia tomorrow

## Newcastle woos opera company

NEWCASTLE is attempting to lure the D'Oyly Carte opera company from Birmingham with the promise of its own theatre and annual funds of £250,000 (Dalya Albergé writes).

Karl Watkin, a businessman, has acquired the Tyne Theatre and Opera House in Westgate Road for £1 million with the intention that the D'Oyly Carte should become the resident company. The theatre, a 134-year-old listed building which was closed for 11 months after a fire on Christmas Day 1985, needs extensive renovation. Mr Watkin sees his purchase as a chance to renovate a run-down area of the city.

Ray Brown, general manager of D'Oyly Carte, said: "This is an extremely exciting opportunity." The matter will go to the board this week. The move would also depend on Birmingham's reaction.

## Beware Russians aiming to relieve you of blood pressure and wallet



### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

posure was not helped by discovering, just before his train was due to leave for Moscow, that his wallet had been stolen.

He was left by his erstwhile companions to die in the snow as his heart rate started to fall to an ominously low rate. Rescued, he was sent back to Moscow where clonidine poisoning was diagnosed.

Clonidine is better known as a treatment for high blood pressure than as a narcotic. However, even if the Russian crooks increasingly use it to enfeeble their subjects, West-

ern doctors are abandoning it for its primary purpose. Other, more effective drugs without such serious side-effects are now available to treat hypertension. Clonidine can cause a dry mouth, a very slow pulse rate — as Mr de Waal discovered — sedation in the short term and insomnia if taken for any length of time.

Mr de Waal is unlikely to have discovered as he lay in the snow that it causes impotence, but he may have noticed that it can trigger depression. As a knockout drop it has the advantage that it is practically tasteless when mixed with vodka and enhances the disinhibitory effect of alcohol as well as adding its own mind-bending properties.

The Russian criminal obviously knows its properties: clinics catering for foreign visitors in Moscow are now treating several cases of clonidine poisoning a month.

## Porsche in fatal collision 'was doing 100mph'

THREE people were killed in a crash on a Porsche promotion day at which cars were driven at up to 120mph on country lanes, an inquest was told yesterday.

Derek Redfern, a retired businessman, was the last customer taken on a high-speed test drive. Gavin Shaw, the salesman, was driving when the pair left from a country lane. Seconds later, the £56,000 Porsche Carrera 911 exploded in flames when it crashed into a Renault 5 driven by Karen Dalley, the hotel's assistant manager.

Mr Redfern, 57, Mr Shaw, 30, and Miss Dalley, 22, died instantly in the crash at Llyswen, in Powys, on June 11. They were identified by dental records.

The trip was a surprise for Mr Redfern's son Oliver. Mr Redfern travelled from his home at Kingsbridge, Devon, to visit his son, a trainee architect, who was studying at Cardiff University.

Oliver Redfern, 20, told the inquest at Brecon that on his drive in a Porsche 968 Cabriolet the car broke legal speed limits. "At one stage, we started to pull out when another Porsche shot past and, later, on a straight road, we reached 120mph. I must admit I was enjoying it."

The open day was arranged by Porsche dealers Merlyn Cambria, of Cardiff. Kevin Baddeley, the sales manager, said nine cars were being demonstrated and the sales team was told to make sure customers "weren't carried away" by the high-performance cars. "I told them to keep their speeds down and observe the legal limit."

PC Mark Worth, the accident investigator, said the Porsche lost control on a left-hand bend at a speed of at least 100mph on a stretch of road which had double white lines. He said the tread of one tyre was worn at the edge which showed it had been habitually driven hard.

The inquest continues.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Probation for nurse over son's insulin

A nurse who gave her ten-year-old son, in pain from a severe birth injury, a potentially fatal dose of insulin was placed on probation for three years yesterday after admitting two charges of assault.

Lord Johnston told the woman, 41, from Fife, at the High Court in Glasgow that a condition would be psychiatric treatment. The boy, who suffers epilepsy, migraine, and flies into rages, suffered no after-effects from the insulin. Two charges of murder were dropped.

## School to appeal

Pupils and parents at Hackney Downs School, east London, which has been recommended for closure, failed to win a reprieve in the High Court. But they were given leave to take the case to the Court of Appeal before Friday — the last day of term and the effective closure date.

## Soldiers out

Two privates in the Royal Logistic Corps were dismissed from the Army yesterday after cannabis was found in their kit in Bosnia. Jason Dobbs, 21, was also sentenced to three months in custody by a court martial, and Ricky Hughes, 23, to 28 days. Both were based at Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

## Rector's death

A rector charged with indecently assaulting girls under 16 has been found dead in his car at a beauty spot near Denbigh, Clwyd. A hosepipe led to the exhaust. The Rev John Roberts, 63, rector of Llandulas and Llysfaen, was found a day after he was reported missing.

## WPC attacked

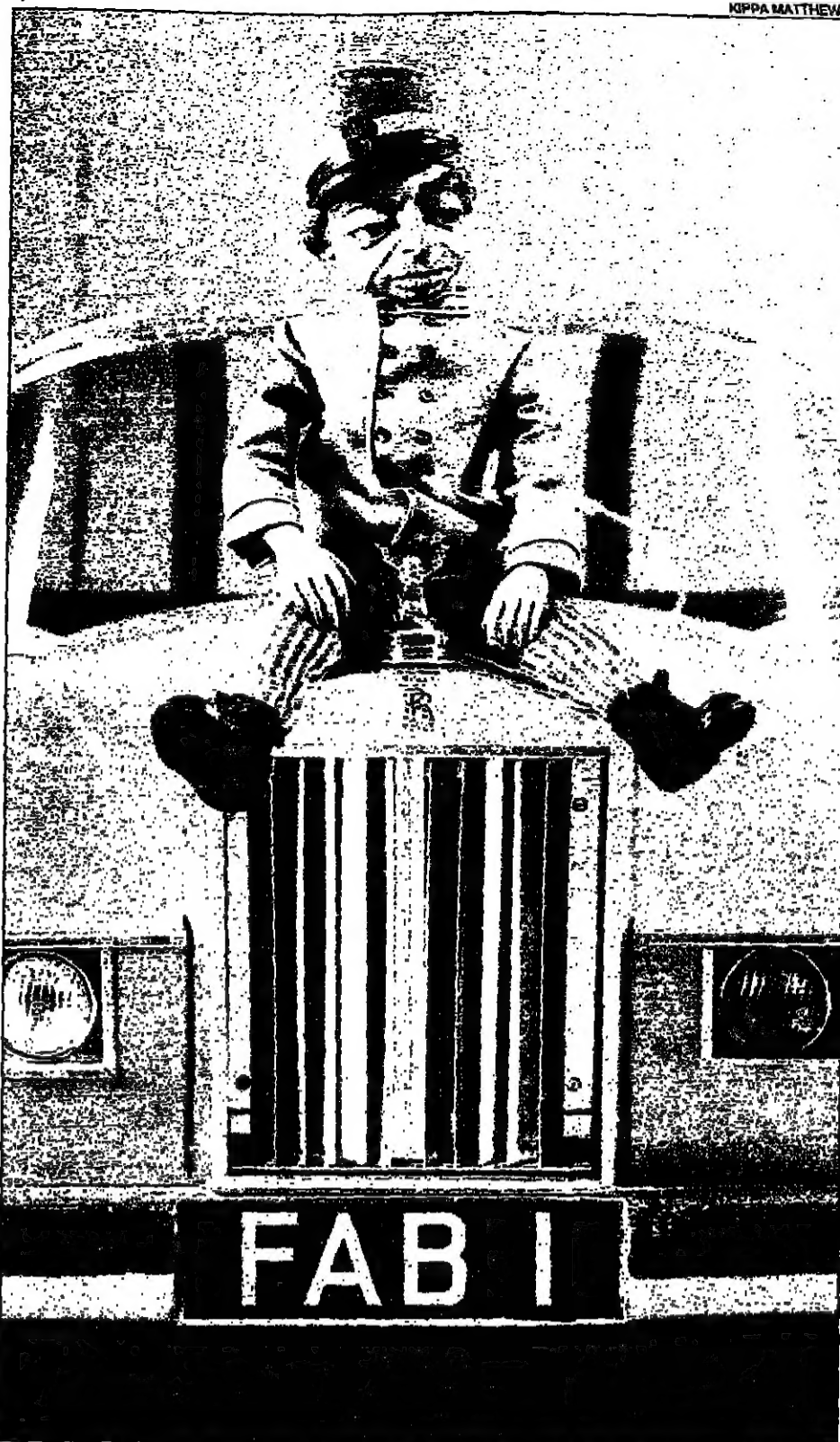
A policewoman was hit in the face with a wrench as she and a colleague tried to question two men acting suspiciously in the car park of an hotel at Sedgfield, Co Durham. WPC Helen Bulloch, 29, was in hospital with a fractured cheekbone and cuts.

## £100,500 Turner

An unknown Turner landscape, identified by the artist's fingerprint, sold for £100,500 at Phillips in London. The fingerprint on *Landscape with Rainbows*, bought at a car boot sale in Canada, matched that on a Turner work at the Tate Gallery.

## Judge's present

A judge granted a request by a homeless man to be allowed to stay in Norwich prison for Christmas. Mark Keepe, 20, is accused of escaping from lawful custody.



Thunderbirds are going, going, gone: Parker starting his retirement yesterday

## This is goodbye, M'lady. By the way, I'm keeping the car

BY A STAFF REPORTER

IT WAS the parting of the ways yesterday for Lady Penelope and the chauffeur who steered her through countless adventures in *Thunderbirds*.

As international collectors bid for puppets from the television series at a London auction, the upper-crust adventuress found herself off to a new life in America, while Parker, her unflappable employee, is staying in Britain.

In a fitting end to the relationship, the Cockney driver gets to stay with the shocking-pink Rolls-Royce in which he rescued her so often. An anonymous British

collector paid £23,000 for the 9ft model car — number plate FAB 1 — and £19,550 for an original puppet of Parker.

Both prices left international collectors looking a little outclassed. An American collector was able to buy her for £13,800, including a white linen dress with lilac blouse and trademark large hat.

A spokeswoman for Phillips salesroom said: "Lady Penelope has a stiff upper lip and will make a new life and new friends in America — even if she has lost her car and butler."

The puppets and car were

used to make the cult 1960s show, which ran to 32 one-hour episodes and two full-length films. They had since been owned by separate collectors, while the show has been appealing afresh to a new generation of young.

Also at the auction, a British collector who bought the puppet of the indestructible Captain Scarlet last September was able to reunite him with his Angel Interceptor craft for £9,975.

Perhaps unexpectedly, an American paid £5,175 for a vicar puppet from the series *Secret Service*, which was modelled on Stanley Unwin.

## Charter basis for Labour legislation

## Ramblers demand right to roam the countryside

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

WALKERS are heading for confrontation with farmers and landowners after setting out their demands for a right-to-roam charter, covering all woods, riversides and uncultivated land.

A draft Access to the Countryside Bill, unveiled today by Kate Ashbrook, chairman of the 108,000-member Ramblers' Association, would in principle make it a criminal offence for landowners to stop the public entering such areas. Landowners would be able to apply to local authorities for temporary bans on access for a variety of reasons, including keeping walkers off moorland during grouse and pheasant shoots and away from sheep flocks during lambing.

Ms Ashbrook said: "The range of restrictions built into the proposed Bill shows that we are taking a common-sense and responsible approach and gives the lie to those who say we are making unreasonable demands. The gentlemen of England fight dirty. They know that we have never claimed an unrestricted right of access everywhere, but this does not stop them pretending otherwise if it suits their commercial interests."

The Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members own half of England and Wales, said a statutory right to roam, however legally qualified, would be a recipe for conflict. Alan Woods, the association's environmental adviser, said: "We have always taken the view that voluntary agreements between ramblers and landowners are the right way forward. Statutory imposition will only create resentment."

Paddy Tipping, the Labour MP for Sherwood, who is also president of the ramblers' Nottinghamshire branch, plans to table the charter as a Ten Minute Rule Bill in January. This has no chance of becoming law but, if opposed, could be voted on and provide a test of parliamentary opinion.

"Rambling is not a political issue, but a popular one deserving the backing of all sides of the House," he said.

It is expected that the ramblers' charter will form the basis for legislation which the Labour Party has promised to bring forward if it wins the next general election.

The charter says the public should be able to walk over all open country, which is defined as "any area which consists wholly or predominantly of mountain, moor, heath, down, cliff or foreshore (including any bank, barrier, dune, beach, flat or other land adjacent to the foreshore)".

In what is likely to prove the most controversial section, it also says walkers should have access to "any woodlands" and to a strip of land beside all rivers and canals.

Landowners would be able to apply to local authorities to keep the public out under "temporary prohibition orders". Moorland owners, for

example, could apply to close their estates for a maximum of 12 days in any calendar year "to enable organised shooting to take place".

Martin Gillibrand, secretary of the Moorland Owners' Association, said: "Such a charter would be impossible to enforce. Many estates have shoots on at least 30 days in the year. How would we let walkers know which days were closed?"

The National Farmers' Union said it was worried that a right to roam would exacerbate the growing problem of rural crime and vandalism. Sue Viner, the NFU's countryside adviser, said: "Our preference has always been for managed access to farmland." Restaurants, pubs and even village souvenir shops will be eligible for their own roadside tourist signs under new rules designed to boost tourism (Stephen Farrell writes).

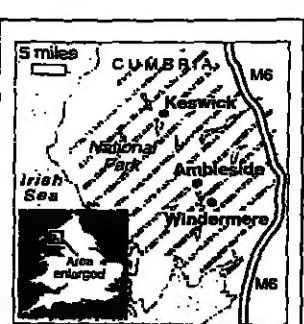
Until now the brown and white signs have been reserved for leading tourist attractions, such as leisure parks, museums and stately homes. John Warr, the Roads Minister, said yesterday that from January 5 discretion for signing would be passed to local authorities and a maximum of six signs could be displayed together. Businesses would pay for their signs.

The move has been greeted with concern by rural groups. Neil Sinden, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "We are worried that you will see a multitude of unsightly, unnecessary traffic signs. The system we had contained very useful and valuable controls which up until now safeguarded the countryside."

A spokesman for the AA said: "Road safety has to be the priority. It is far more important for people to be informed about what is happening on the road ahead of them than to know where the local restaurant is."



Ashbrook said demands were reasonable



## Tourist industry sees off car curbs

PROTESTS from the local tourist industry have halted proposals to restrict traffic over most Lake District passes to access only and to cut speed limits on all minor roads in the national park.

The ideas came from the Lake District Traffic Management Initiative, set up by tourism and local authority officials to devise solutions to the area's traffic problems. But people reliant on the tourist trade protested during public consultations that both measures would cut passing trade. As a result, a more flexible, local approach to the traffic overload is being recommended.

Members of the planning policy committee of the Lake District Special Planning Board were divided at a meeting yesterday over whether more car parks should be encouraged. One member, Peter Fitzpatrick, said: "At public meetings the vast majority said we should have more car parks, but we can never provide enough for all who want to come here unless you tame the whole of the Lake District. If you provide the maximum, you'll have all sorts of problems."

Some members, however, thought that a few discreetly placed car parks could help to relieve traffic pressures and stop people parking illegally. The revised strategy will now go to further public consultation before final decisions are made in two months' time.

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# Why both sides are stuck with the Question Time charade

Tony Blair's emergence as a parliamentary reformer, proposing to transform Prime Minister's Questions, is not quite what it seems. He is not, in reality, a lonely radical challenging the inbuilt conservatism of the Tory Government over all things constitutional, the next winner of a Charter 88 award. His comments reflect, first, a consensus, accepted by both John Major and Paddy Ashdown, about the need to change the format of the weekly, 15-minute, PM's Questions, and, second, the calculations of a party leader about which type

of reform would best suit Labour. Mr Blair is genuine in his complaints about the current raucous and personally abusive exchanges, with its soundbites devised for the evening news bulletins. No event which makes stars of MPs like the plonking David Evans is good for Parliament or for politics. That distaste is shared by Mr Major and Mr Ashdown. The Prime Minister first pressed the need for reform last year, which led to a review and proposals for change from the cross-party Procedure Committee five months ago. And Mr Ashdown

has been one of the most consistent advocates of reform, including the idea of a once-a-week 30-minute session, which would be more ordered than at present with greater notice of detailed questions. The committee produced a carefully balanced compromise with a suggested experiment on Thursdays when backbench MPs would not be allowed to table the present "open" questions about the Prime Minister's day followed by a detailed supplementary on anything they wish. Instead, backbenchers, chosen as now by ballot, would have to give 27 hours notice of a detailed, substantive question. This is intended to allow MPs to raise matters of topical interest but also to give the Prime Minister longer to prepare a full answer. The main stumbling block is over the position of the Leader of the Opposition since PM's Questions is one of the few occasions when he or she is assured of the limelight to press the Prime Minister. So the committee suggested that the Leader of the Opposition should be allowed to

intervene on any question and to table a specific question at noon on the relevant day. Some of Mr Blair's key advisers were not keen on this idea, arguing that they would lose a crucial advantage by giving any notice, even of three hours. In a letter to the committee in May, Mr Blair argued that in any reforms "provision would have to be made for the Leader of the Opposition to ask a topical question of his choice early on in Question Time, as at present". Labour's coolness to the committee's report largely explains why little has been heard of it since July.

Mr Blair's latest proposals for reform are not new but revive the suggestion he made in May for a 30-minute session. This was rejected by the committee because it might be less flexible than now. Mr Blair accepts that some questions would have to be notified in advance to encourage more informative replies. But, crucially, he still believes the opposition leader should retain the ability to ask impromptu searching questions on the topics of the day. But no Prime Minister, of whatever party, is likely to agree to have a mixture of questions in advance from back-

benchers and a surprise open one from the Leader of the Opposition. Little is therefore likely to happen before the next general election. Calculations of party advantage are likely to prevent any bold initiative to break this deadlock. Both sides are likely to stick with the status quo. Mr Major and Mr Blair will carry on playing the old game every Tuesday and Thursday with cynical resignation, even though they both despise what happens and recognise the damage it is doing to Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

## Gummer launches assault on Britain's rubbish mountain

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE Government announced a strategy yesterday intended to safeguard the environment by cutting the huge quantities of rubbish dumped at landfill sites.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said that every year Britain generated 430 million tonnes of rubbish — enough to fill Windermere every nine months. A typical household produces around 700kg of waste a year. Seventy-seven per cent of that could be recycled or composted. We cannot entirely eliminate waste production, but we can reduce the impact that our waste has on our environment.

The strategy, drafted after consultation with industry, waste companies and recycling organisations, calls for the levels of household and industrial waste going to landfills to be cut by 60 per cent by 2005. It also calls for 40 per cent of household and municipal rubbish to be recovered, recycled and re-used by the same date.

Ray Palin, director of the Energy from Waste Association, which promotes the incineration of rubbish, said he was delighted that a recovery target had been set.

Incineration, with each plant able to produce electricity for up to 30,000 houses as a by-product, is backed by the Royal Commission on Envi-

ronmental Pollution and the Government despite opposition from some environmental groups that claim the technology increases toxic pollution.

Mr Palin said the evidence from Europe was that incineration alongside well-run recycling schemes could bring about massive waste reduction. In France two fifths of household waste is incinerated and about a third is in Germany. This compares with less than a tenth in Britain.

There have been fears that tougher European air pollution laws would make it too expensive for companies and councils to invest in new energy producing incinerators. But the Department of Trade and Industry recently included waste-to-energy incineration in a scheme that provides subsidies using money from electricity customers.

Mr Palin said a new incinerator at Birmingham was about to begin operating and another was under construction in Cleveland. Older incinerators, which it was feared would be forced into retirement, are being upgraded with local authority and company money. These include plants at Edmonton, Coventry and Sheffield.

"We should soon have seven plants operating to the highest standards," Mr Palin said. The association estimates that

of the 20 million tonnes of household rubbish produced annually 10 to 15 incinerators could dispose of nearly a third.

Mr Gummer, who described the waste reduction targets as ambitious, expects the new landfill tax announced in the budget to encourage industry and local authorities to back more imaginative recycling schemes by increasing the costs of landfill disposal.

But Chris Murphy, assistant chief executive of the independent Institute of Waste Management in Northampton, said that too much faith might be being put in the landfill tax. Some recycling companies felt that other measures were needed at the recycling rather than the disposal end of the waste chain. These include zero national insurance for recycling firms and fiscal incentives favouring products made from recycled rather than virgin material.

Mr Murphy said that stable markets for recycled goods were vital to the success of the Government's strategy. A few years ago waste paper was virtually worthless but now commanded more than £100 a tonne after a steep rise in pulp prices to meet paper needs in the Far East. "If you own a recycling company now you are making money... but who knows in a few years?"



## Labour rebels 'expelled'

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

REBEL Labour members of Walsall council have formed a breakaway group, prompting the party to declare that all 15 have brought about their own expulsion.

Dave Church, the left-wing leader of the rebels, had already been suspended after an investigation by Labour's

national executive found that he and four colleagues were members of another group described as "a party within a party".

The formation of the latest rebel group means that the West Midlands council is hung and there is no chance of implementing its decentralisation policy, under which a network of district offices was planned. The split coincides with a government announcement of £14.6 million funding for regeneration of the borough over the next seven years.

The rebels decided to break with the national party after a stormy three-hour meeting of the council on Monday. Mr Church, with the help of five Liberal Democrats, survived an attempt by the 19 moderate Labour councillors to seize the

leadership. The rebel 15 then announced the formation of a new party to be known as "the Labour Group". The party responded by saying the rebels had expelled themselves and would not be allowed to rejoin the party for at least five years.

A Labour spokesman said: "The rules are crystal clear. They have just excluded themselves from Labour Party membership."

Mr Church said last night: "The whole thing is now in chaos because these people 120 miles away are trying to run Walsall council. It is bound to fail but it is the people of Walsall and the local politicians here who will have to pay the price. This fiasco is not going to do the Labour Party any good at the next local elections."

## Redwood details 'dangers' of a single currency

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

A SINGLE currency would damage the British economy and strike a grievous blow to centuries of parliamentary democracy, John Redwood said yesterday.

In a 42-page pamphlet primarily aimed at business but also taking in the wider concerns of the public, the former Cabinet minister reviews the case for and against monetary union and concludes that it would be a political and economic disaster.

"For the nation as a whole, there are huge constitutional issues," he says. "Do we wish to remain a nation or not? We are united with one monarch, one Parliament, one army and one currency. Take away the pound, and with it many of the powers of Parliament, and you are dissolving the nation."

"In a world of a single currency, there would be no point writing to your MP to complain of unemployment, inflation, house prices or mortgage rates. All these things would be determined or influenced by the Central Bank, not by ourselves."

"I believe it is a small minority of the British people who want to wind up Britain and create a new European nation with a single European government. Similarly, it is a small minority who want us to turn our backs on the Common Market and deny we have interests in Europe."

"The British Government should speak up for our idea of co-operating nation states, who preserve the right to independent action in crucial areas of policy... If we give voice to it with verve and distinction, we could save Europe from the economic and constitutional turmoil that a single currency would cause."

He continues: "Far from creating harmony and peace in Europe, the single currency plan would reawaken tensions and disagreements as well as damaging our prosperity. It is an experiment we cannot afford... It is a fundamental constitutional issue. Abolishing the pound would be a mistake."

Mr Redwood concedes that for supporters of a European superstate, a single currency makes sense. He also accepts that a single currency would cut transaction costs for firms dealing in European currencies — a minority — and, in theory, would keep inflation low. But he sets out several main reasons for rejecting the idea.

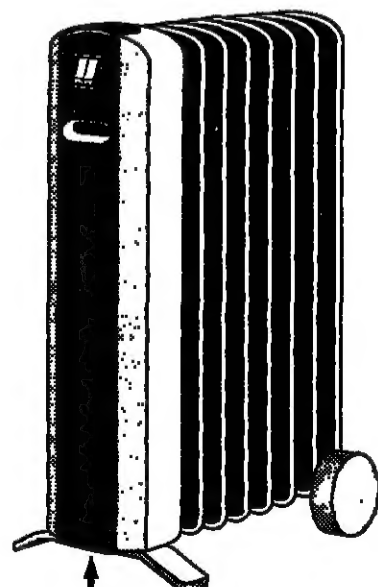
It would, he says, be a major step along the road to a European superstate; it would push up taxation as affluent parts of the country were required to subsidise poorer parts of the Mediterranean states; it would push up prices as shopkeepers cashed in on the changeover from the pound to the new currency; it would be expensive, partly because of the cost of producing new notes and coins; the transition phase would involve the handover of £25 billion of foreign exchange reserves to a European Central Bank; it would mean loss of national control over taxation, public spending and borrowing.

### IN PARLIAMENT

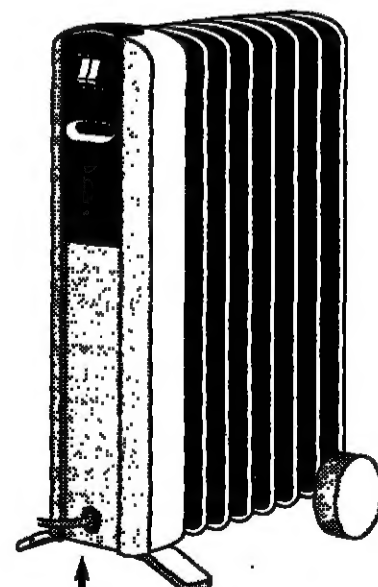
YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to social security ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a statement on the Bosnia peace implementation force and debates on the Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Bill, second reading, and the Rating (Caravans and Boats) Bill, second reading. In the Lords: debates on next year's European inter-governmental conference; relations between Europe and the United States. TODAY in the Commons: backbench

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## Depressed areas get £2.5bn aid

DEPRESSED inner cities and rural areas will receive £2.5 billion over the next seven years from the latest batch of awards for regeneration schemes (Ian Murray writes).

The Government will provide £1 billion, with the rest promised by the private sector. It will help to safeguard 500,000 jobs, support 80,000 new businesses, provide 170,000 homes and support more than 20,000 community groups. The 172 awards announced yesterday, by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, include those for schemes tackling drug abuse, helping refugees and finding work for ex-offenders.

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# 'Duped' Gingrich heroine fights to save her career

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

"I AM one of the luckiest people in the world," Enid Greene Waldholtz, a newly elected Utah congresswoman, told *The Times* in an interview last January. She was 36, just married and pregnant, but above all she was one of the stormtroopers of Newt Gingrich's "Republican Revolution" who were going to clean up Washington and permanently transform America. "I am a part of something historic," she said.

On Monday, America watched transfixed as Mrs Waldholtz, tears streaming down her face, fought to salvage her ruined political career. In a five-hour televised press conference, the woman once dubbed the "Mormon Margaret Thatcher" explained why she was one of the world's unluckiest women.

Her \$1.8 million (£1.2 million) campaign, last year's most expensive, had been financed fraudulently, she admitted, but it was all her husband Joseph's doing. The 21-stone "teddy bear" she had trusted absolutely had turned out to be a consummate con man. He had duped her father out of \$4 million, embezzled tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, filed false campaign finance reports and had engaged in what she delicately termed "questionable lifestyle choices".

"Everything I had known

about Joseph Waldholtz, who I had loved and trusted, was a lie," the weeping congresswoman said. She apologised to her election opponents and Salt Lake City's voters, but refused to resign. "There is no way I can return an election. I wish there were."

The couple met through politics in 1991 and were married before 700 guests in 1993. Joseph, five years her junior, passed himself off as extremely wealthy and promised her \$5 million as a wedding gift. Last year Mrs Waldholtz campaigned on a platform of family values, fiscal rectitude and political reform, and defeated the Democratic incumbent thanks to a huge last-minute advertising blitz financed, she told reporters, by personal funds.



Waldholtz: tearful TV press conference

In Washington, the couple rented Henry Kissinger's old Georgetown home and she quickly became a Gingrich favourite. She pointedly refused to accept her full salary or the extravagant congressional pension scheme and carried the Speaker's *Contract With America* in her handbag like a bible. In August she had a daughter, Elizabeth, becoming only the second congresswoman to give birth while in office.

Almost immediately her guided life began to unravel. Federal authorities launched an investigation into her campaign's funding. In November she drove her husband to Washington's National airport, supposedly to meet the trustees of his alleged family trust fund, but he vanished, leaving her without even the car keys. A week later he turned himself in and offered to incriminate his wife in return for a lesser sentence. Mrs Waldholtz, besieged in her home by reporters, sued for divorce.

The Salt Lake City press conference was her first public appearance in a month.

At the press conference, Mrs Waldholtz did not rule out seeking re-election next year, but as one *Washington Post* commentator put it yesterday: "Seeking public office on the ground that you have been totally duped is not ordinarily the best way."

## Murderer opts for firing squad

By GILES WHITTELL

THE demand by a rapist and murderer to be executed by firing squad rather than receive a lethal injection is causing problems for prison authorities in Utah.

John Taylor will become America's first inmate to die by the bullet since Gary Gilmore in 1977, unless his

lawyers mount a successful appeal by January 26. The Utah Department of Corrections is trying to establish an acceptable protocol to accommodate his wishes, since the firing squad site has been shut down.

Utah is the only state to offer a choice between lethal injection and the firing squad. Taylor, 36, convicted

of raping and strangling an 11-year-old girl in 1988 but who maintains his innocence, said: "I don't want to go flipping around, like a fish out of water."

□ Huntsville: Esequiel Banda, 31, who murdered a woman, 74, has set a record by being the eighteenth person to be executed in Texas this year. (Reuters)



A three-storey Tudor-style home falls into a sinkhole in the Sea Cliff region of San Francisco after torrential rain ruptured a 100-year-old sewer pipe. The hole, which was 200ft wide and 60ft deep, also engulfed a tree and a lorry, and several other houses were declared unsafe

## San Francisco picks former shoeshine boy for Mayor

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BARRING an upset, San Francisco was choosing as its first black Mayor yesterday a former Texas shoeshine boy who became one of America's most influential black politicians without ever holding national office.

As Democratic Speaker of the Californian assembly, the mercurial Willie Brown was regarded as the state's powerbroker. On the eve of the mayoral run-off he enjoyed a lead of more than 20 points over Frank Jordan, the incumbent, whose campaign stalled when he posed nude in a shower with two disc jockeys.

Mr Brown defeated Mr Jordan in last month's primary.

He was promptly endorsed for the run-off by the city's police officers, its environmentalists and, crucially, its homosexuals.

The election was all but won when Roberta Achenberg, until last year the highest-ranking openly gay member of the Clinton Administration, urged her supporters to back the Brown campaign after she came third in the primary on November 7. The gay vote accounts for 17 per cent of the turnout in mayoral elections.

In a final month of gruelling campaigning, Mr Jordan has tried to brand his opponent as untrustworthy, reminding voters of donations Mr Brown

accepted from special interest groups to fund his re-elections to the state assembly, where he represented San Francisco for 31 years.

Records show that the flamboyant Mr Brown, who is also known for his fast cars and costly Italian suits, has accepted \$255,000 (£170,000) in his career from the tobacco industry — more than any other American politician.

But tolerant San Francisco appears to have forgiven him. It has ridiculed Mr Jordan's bid to enliven his pallid image by accepting a challenge from two Los Angeles radio personalities to join them in a televised shower.

## Whitewater inquiry finds 'smoking gun'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS investigating Whitewater found the focus that has eluded them for months yesterday after a "smoking gun" emerged in files once belonging to Hillary Clinton that have been kept secret from the Senate since the start of its inquiry.

The files, relating to work by Mrs Clinton for a savings and loan association owned by the Clintons' partner in the failed Whitewater land venture, were removed from her Arkansas law firm during the 1992 presidential election. They were later stored in a Washington basement by Webster Hubbell, the former associate attorney-general who has since been convicted

of fraud and tax evasion. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the Senate panel, said yesterday that the previously unreported files were directly connected to criminal referrals involving Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association, and included information on its representation by Mrs Clinton.

Mr D'Amato said Madison was "a criminal enterprise" and the documents showed that the Rose Law Firm, in which both Mr Hubbell and Mrs Clinton were partners, was "deeply involved" in its representation.

"People would not have wanted that to come out," he said.

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# Peres urges Assad to join in building permanent peace

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND ROSS DUNN IN NABLUS

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday made an emotional appeal to President Assad to join him in fashioning a lasting peace in the Middle East.

In an address to Congress the Prime Minister, who inherited the mantle of the assassinated Yitzhak Rabin, outlined his vision for a deal with Damascus. He said: "I would like to use this podium to turn to President Hafez al-Assad of Syria and say to him, 'Let us not look back. Let fingertips touch a new hope. Let each party yield to the other, he to us, we to him.'" He added: "We stand ready to negotiate relentlessly until all gaps are bridged, if you will."

Mr Peres's speech came a day after President Clinton declared that there was a "fundamental new reality" in the Middle East for peace after Mr Rabin's death.

Syria welcomed last night Mr Peres's commitment to peace. It said it would discuss plans with Warren Christopher, the American Secretary

of State, due to visit the Syrian capital this week.

But Mr Peres has yet to mention Israel's stance on the Golan Heights, captured in the 1967 war. Syria demands its unconditional return.

In the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday, Jewish and Arab forces closed ranks to ensure a peaceful end to 28 years of Israeli occupation. As thousands of Palestinians tried to storm the Israeli army headquarters and jail complex, the newly formed Pales-

tinian police formed a human shield to protect the Israeli soldiers.

Israel's withdrawal from Nablus, the largest Arab city on the West Bank, came a day earlier than expected. But news of the pullout spread quickly and crowds shouting "they are gone, they are gone" gathered outside the army headquarters and the adjacent prison, where many of them had been jailed and sometimes tortured.

Bassam Abu-Rabieh, 23, standing in the jail watchtower, said: "It's like a dream." He used to throw stones at the Israeli soldiers who had stood on the very spot just hours ago, an action that guaranteed a spell in jail.

□ Bethlehem: Plans for the first peaceful Christmas ceremony in the birthplace of Christ, to be televised live to a worldwide audience, have been overshadowed by a fear that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader due to attend it, could be the target of an assassination attempt.

## Witness filmed Rabin murder

Jerusalem: A witness to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, filmed the killing with a video camera, a Justice Ministry official confirmed yesterday. He said the amateur film was handed to a commission of inquiry about a month ago and would be handed over to police. (AP)



Ibrahim Jaffer holds the key to the jail in Nablus, the West Bank city that yesterday came under Palestinian control. Many people in the city were held there during Israel's rule

## Mohajirs bury their dead in Karachi

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KARACHI

KARACHI buried some of its dead yesterday in a mass turnout that symbolised the crumbling economic, political and ethnic state of Pakistan's biggest and most important city. The threatened disintegration of the financial capital poses one of the greatest dangers to the country since its formation in 1947.

More than 1,500 have died on Karachi's streets this year in sniper attacks, revenge killings and firebombings. Two of the latest victims, shot after being tortured, were the brother and nephew of Altaf Hussain, the leader of the Mohajir Qaum Movement (MQM), a street gang turned political party. Mr Hussain wields unrivalled authority over the 20 million Mohajirs by telephone from a semi-detached in Mill Hill, north London. He fled Pakistan three years ago, leaving an empty house that has become almost a shrine.

The Government accuses the MQM of terrorism. Most of its office-holders, operating underground, face a barrage of criminal charges. Mr Hussain, 42, has been described by Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, as a cowardly rat, and he faces scores of murder, torture and arson charges. Pakistan and Britain do not have an extradition treaty.

The killing of his relatives brought more veiled threats by MQM leaders to declare Karachi an independent province, which would effectively mean civil war. "So far the MQM has not demanded a separate province because we want to solve these problems in negotiations," Mr Hussain said in London recently.

## Tribunal begins Rwanda trials

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE first ring leaders of the genocide in Rwanda were charged yesterday with the murder of more than 100,000 people in one district of the tiny Central African Republic. Richard Goldstone, the South African judge who heads the tribunal, said the names of the eight accused will remain secret until they are arrested. Four of the accused are believed to be held in Zambia and are to be extradited to Arusha, Tanzania, where the tribunal is sitting.

The trials of about 600 people, implicated in the murder of a million Rwandans, are likely to get off to a slow start, however, since only New Zealand and Australia have passed laws enabling the extradition of the genocide suspects. "The indictments mark the beginning of a long road... many challenges lie ahead," Dr Goldstone said.

The eight ring leaders come from Kibuye, beside Lake Kivu, where the killings began in April last year. At least 100,000 Tutsis perished there. After several days of talks in New York, the United Nations peace-keeping mission in Rwanda was salvaged yesterday after the Tutsi-led Government relented on its demand that the 2,100 peacekeepers be withdrawn. Rwanda has agreed to let 1,400 stay.

## US calls on Peking to release dissident

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

AMERICA has demanded the immediate release of Wei Jingsheng, China's most famous dissident, who goes on trial today, perhaps for his life, in Peking.

"We believe that Wei should be released immediately," said Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman. "We do not believe there is any justification for his detention by the Chinese Government, much less his trial."

Foreign reporters in Peking who applied to attend the trial have been told all passes have been allocated to "the public", which in China means carefully selected people and perhaps to his family. Mr Wei is being tried for "conspiring to over-

throw the Government". "Under any normal country, any normal system of justice," Mr Burns added, "... Mr Wei ought to be released."

The trial will merely be a show one, unless Mr Wei is given the chance to mount a proper defence. Amnesty International said in London. Neither Mr Wei's family nor his lawyers have been allowed to see him and they have been given no details of the charges that he will have to face. Amnesty added: "We consider Wei Jingsheng to be a prisoner of conscience who is being held for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression."

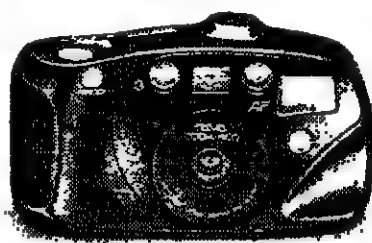


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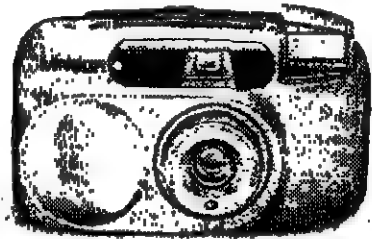
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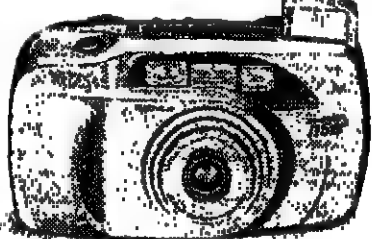
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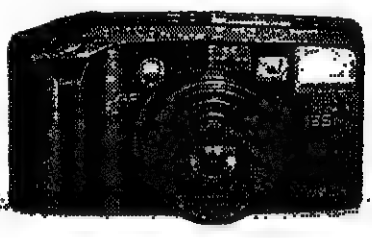
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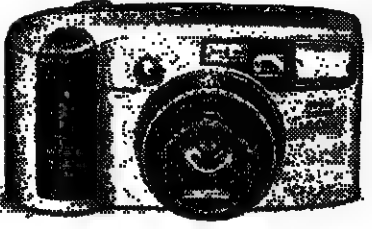
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## Bosnian Serb general was obsessed with getting war crime charges dropped

## Russian pressure secured release of French pilots

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE release of the two French pilots, held captive since their Mirage was shot down on August 30, was finally engineered after an extraordinary but failed attempt by General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander, to free himself of war crime charges.

Ever since he was indicted as a war criminal by the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague on July 25, General Mladic, the bull-headed leader of the 85,000 Bosnian Serb troops, had become obsessed with the idea of getting the charges dropped. He took exception to being named as a war criminal, according to senior Western diplomatic sources.

When Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat, the squadron commander and navigator of a Mirage 2000 flying over a Serb munitions site, were shot down over Pale, they provided General Mladic with a vital bargaining chip in his personal campaign against the indictment.

He turned to the Russians for help and for the next three months, they played the key

role in trying to organise a deal under which there would be a quid pro quo for the release of the Frenchmen.

Yesterday President Chirac of France praised the Russians for the pressure that they had applied and acknowledged the role they had played in freeing

**6 Milosevic saw his credibility was at stake, so he held the sword of Damocles above Mladic's head**

the pilots. However, the French leader made no mention of an extraordinary incident in The Hague on Sunday, which was to be the final throw by the Russians to try to meet General Mladic's demands to have the war crimes indictment set aside.

With the French Government threatening to "hire" the Bosnian Serbs if they did not release the pilots by midnight on Sunday, Leonid Skornikov, the Russian Ambassador to

The Netherlands, paid a visit to Antonia Cassese, the president of the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, only hours before the French deadline.

Mr Skornikov, under orders from Moscow, appealed to Mr Cassese to "freeze" the war crimes indictment against General Mladic. According to senior Western diplomatic sources, he was "sent packing".

Last night a spokeswoman for the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, confirmed that the Russian Ambassador had made a last-minute appeal. "The ambassador came on Sunday and asked for the indictment to be frozen. Mr Cassese said it was not up to him. It was a matter for the war crimes prosecutor. However, he said he saw no reason for such a request to be made."

Mr Skornikov's failed visit on Sunday was the final blow for General Mladic who, it is believed, has been in control of the fate of the two French pilots ever since they were captured after being out of their Mirage aircraft.

The realisation that time



General Mladic, left, and General Jean Philippe Drouin, the French Chief of Staff, with M Souvignat and M Chiffot in Zvornik, Bosnia, yesterday

was running out for the Serb general came when the French Government made it clear it was not interested in negotiations. With the Bosnia peace treaty-signing ceremony in Paris only days away, France consulted briefly with her allies on the question of reimposing sanctions on Belgrade if the two pilots were not freed.

Publicly, France demanded that the Serbs release the two pilots by midnight on Sunday, or "suffer the consequences". Officials threatened unspecified diplomatic, military or economic action.

Senior American and British

diplomatic sources said there was no hint from Paris that the French planned to mount a military operation but the wording of the statement, which deliberately referred to "hitting" the Serbs, was intended to leave in the air the possibility that some unilateral action was also being planned.

The thought of sanctions being reimposed persuaded President Milosevic of Serbia to apply the maximum pressure on General Mladic to release the Frenchmen.

Mr Milosevic had been warned by many Western

ambassadors in Belgrade, including Ivor Roberts, the British chargé d'affaires, that the French threat to call for renewal of sanctions would be treated sympathetically by France's allies.

One American source said: "Milosevic realised that his credibility was at stake, so he held the sword of Damocles above Mladic's head, threatening to withhold all support for him."

French claims that there had been no secret deal were confirmed by American and British diplomatic sources.

Although the Russian at-

tempt to freeze the war crimes indictment failed, Moscow played a substantial part in applying pressure on Mr Milosevic and General Mladic. The Russian moves were carried out by officials from the Defence Ministry and the intelligence services, under the orders of President Yeltsin.

After the failed Russian visit to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague on Sunday, General Mladic realised he had no cards left to play.

The following day, Belgrade's independent Bk television station reported for the

first time that the French pilots were alive. Pavle Bulatovic, the Serbian Defence Minister, was quoted as saying that the pilots were "safe and sound".

Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy who brokered the Bosnia peace treaty, also used his legendary powers of persuasion to impress on Mr Milosevic the importance of gaining the release of the pilots before the treaty ceremony. One stipulation was that the Bosnian Serbs were not going to be offered any concessions on the Dayton agreement in return for the Frenchmen.

## Media brings profits of boom to Tuzla

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN TUZLA

THE media flood that has swamped Tuzla ahead of the American Nato contingent has brought to the population only the certainty of money.

Even the grim, snow-swept gates of the airfield, location of the US headquarters and logistical build-up, has been transformed by the circus of foreign television networks. Wooden platforms, built by Bosnians for four-figure German mark sums, surround the entrance, supporting lighting systems that bathe the scene.

Prices for apartments in the nondescript industrial town now compete with those of Paris and London. The cost of having a telephone installed is as much as 10,000 marks. The gang of street urchins that hung around the

Hotel Tuzla (fully booked for the indefinite future) have never had it so good. For three-and-a-half years they ran a small-time protection racket looking after journalists' vehicles. A can of Coke, cigarettes, or small change, would guarantee the security of your car for 24 hours, while refusal to pay could result in anything from slashed tyres to car theft. However, business lacked continuity. Until now.

Today they are paid in fists full of dollars, and go about their business washed and in new clothes. "Yes, we like Dayton very much," Ben, their leader, said. "Many cars, many Americans, many dollars." As yet, there is scant evidence of the object of the journalists' attention — the Ameri-

can troops. So far, about 75 have arrived, a number drastically overshadowed by the 400-plus media members who wait daily in a peered enclosure on the runway to watch C-130s disgorge logistical equipment.

"I feel comfortable and I have been feeling comfortable and I have been feeling comfortable," a US spokesman informed the massed banks of American cameras yesterday. "I ran this morning. I went out for a little jog in the snow," he noted, equally bizarrely, as the journalists nodded wisely and noted the importance of his words. It was about the most exciting news of the day.

The media's imagination is being stretched to new heights in their search for stories. A rumour that

topless models on stickers in Tuzla were local girls produced a frantic search of investigative journalism, ostensibly to demonstrate the liberalism of Bosnia's Muslims, until it was revealed that the girls were from London. With this news, the disgruntled hacks returned to the newly-opened bars.

I prefer the jaded realism of central Bosnia. In Goran Vukotić two days ago, a Croatian landlord said that we could not stay with some of the neighbours, as they had left the country during the war and he would have their houses blown up if they tried to make money by renting now. It was almost like the old days.

## Last-ditch Sarajevo poll will bring no changes of mind

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN PALE



Milosevic: he agreed plan

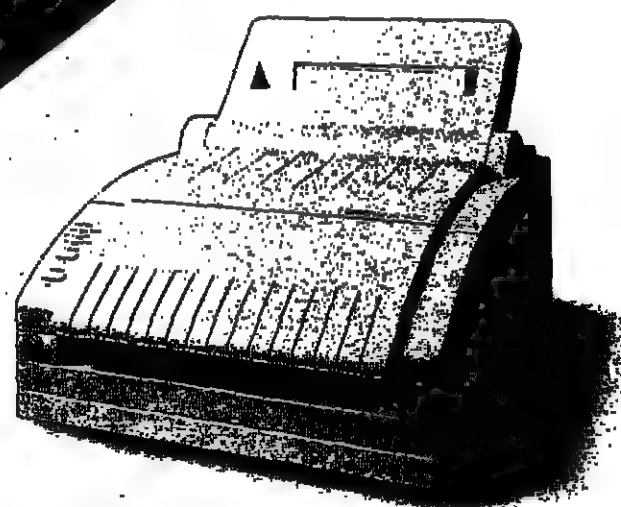
IN A last-ditch effort to persuade peace negotiators to change the Dayton agreement before it is signed in Paris tomorrow, the Bosnian Serbs held a referendum in Sarajevo yesterday to voice their opposition.

The ballots posed the question: "Are you in favour of Serb Sarajevo becoming a part of the Muslim/Croat Federation that will be under the control of the Muslim Government?" Nearly everyone is expected to reply "no".

but even an overwhelming negative vote will have no bearing on the pact agreed by President Milosevic of Serbia and other regional leaders.

The Bosnian Serbs have used the tactic of subjecting international peace proposals to popular referendums in the past to thwart peace efforts, but this time the international negotiators have made clear that the plan will be signed and implemented as it stands, insisting that guarantees for the Serbs have been provided.

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# European leaders to bless 'baptism' of single currency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BARRING an upset, Europe's citizens will be told by the end of the week that they will soon be able to exchange their marks, francs or other coinage for something called the Euro.

The German-inspired baptism of the single currency is likely to be the most newsworthy product of the summit in Madrid where European Union leaders will do their best to avoid fanning the embers of doubt that have flickered into life in recent weeks. "Euro" evokes no enthusiasm beyond Germany. Ungainly in some tongues and nearly a term of abuse in others, the name is expected to be endorsed with little enthusiasm by leaders eager to avoid further discord.

Britain has no objections, although "the idea of christening this baby before it is even born is a slightly bizarre idea," said one British official, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, is almost desperate for a name to launch the "great campaign of explanation" that will teach citizens the merits of the single currency in the new year.

While much of France has rebelled against the budgetary discipline decreed by Maastricht and senior German



officials have begun whispering about delays in the monetary scheme, the EU leaders will try to fix the countdown to its launch in 1999. Oskar Lafontaine, the leader of the German Social Democratic Party, said yesterday that the single currency could become "a pan-European recession programme".

President Chirac's remaining qualms over abandoning "Ecu", the name mentioned in

they should wait until the spring of 1998, once economic data are complete.

Most of John Major's counterparts are keen to prevent him from opening a can of worms with his demand for an urgent look at the consequences of proceeding to monetary union with only a handful of countries. "We are just not going to let the British stir up more trouble in Madrid," said one diplomat. "It is going to be hard enough to avoid being distracted by the noise in France."

Britain deems the matter to be vital because the birth of a restricted Euro-money club will transform the nature of the Union. "The first step is to get our partners to see that there is a problem," the British official said. The result will probably be a request for a study from the European Monetary Institute, the embryo EU central bank.

Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, has fixed a tight agenda for discussion of the revamp of the Maastricht treaty, the most imminent event on the EU timetable. His aim is to avoid quarrels over moves to deeper integration, which pit Britain against the rest in key areas.

## Blast raises EU summit fears

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THERE was concern yesterday for the security of the 15 Prime Ministers and four Latin American Presidents who will be attending this week's European Union summit in Madrid after Monday's car bomb attack, which is believed to have been carried out by Basque separatists.

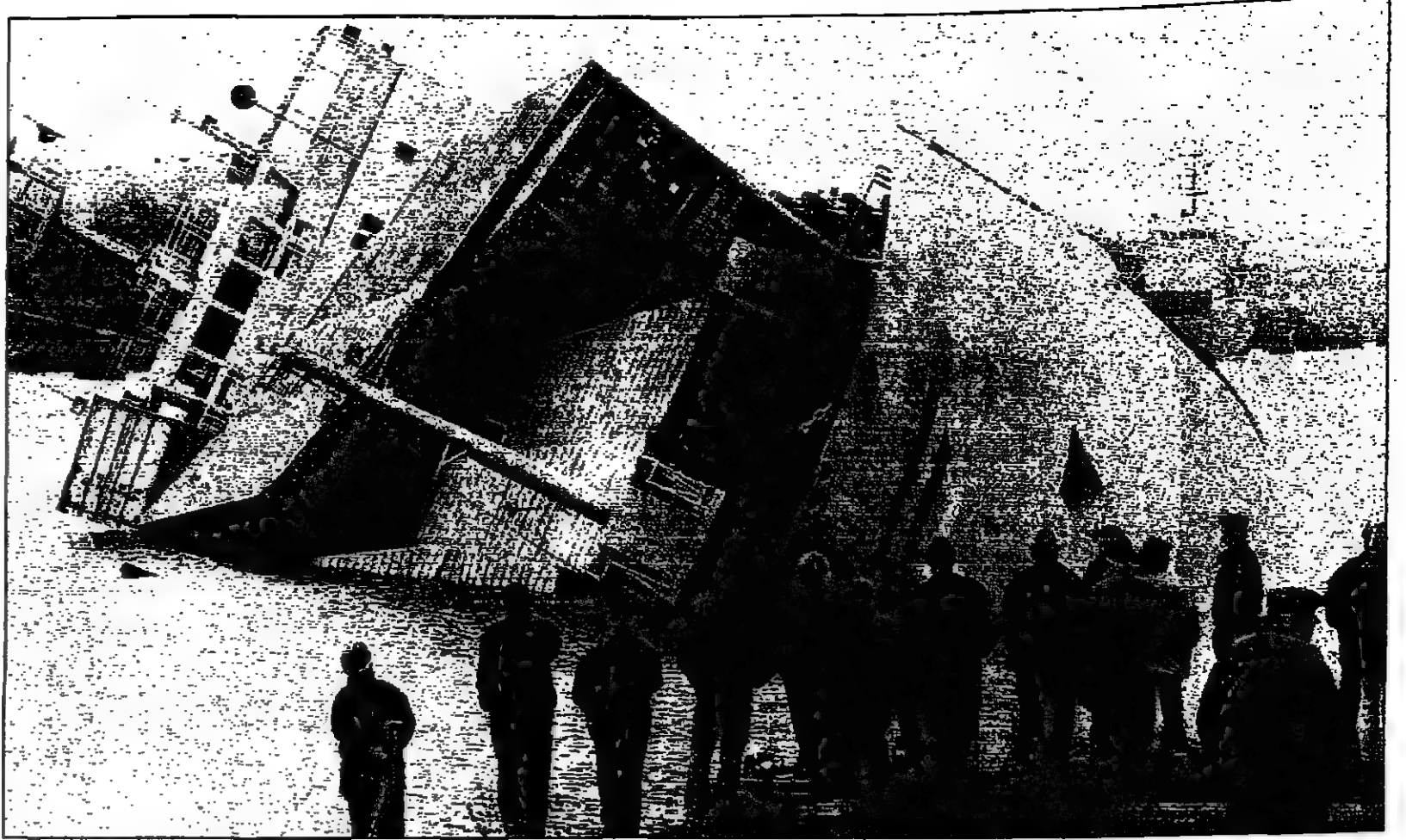
The funerals were held for the six victims, all employed in the transport department of the Spanish Admiralty in the capital. The attack against the

minibus taking them home showed that Eta, which is fighting for an independent Basque state, has a commando unit operating freely in Madrid, in spite of the huge security build-up for the summit.

"Eta attacks when it can and where it can," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "We don't relate the Eta attack to anything other than its periodic appearance. We had already reinforced security as

much as possible for the summit, anticipating any eventuality."

The meeting on Friday and Saturday of the European Council marks the end of Spain's six-month presidency of the EU. Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, appears to have achieved Spain's objectives for the presidency, but a cloud hangs over his personal future and that of his scandal-hit, minority Socialist Government.



The German container ship *Sabine D* in the Kiel canal near Rendsburg, northern Germany, yesterday after hitting the bank. It was then struck by the freighter *Baltic Champ*, sailing under a Panamanian flag. Ten people were slightly hurt and the busy canal has been closed

## Right-wing chameleon dazzles Austria

FROM ROGER BOYES IN VIENNA

JÖRG HAIDER'S eyes have been scratched out, his nose resembles that of Pinocchio, and there is a swastika on his chin. The scarred campaign posters of Herr Haider tell the story: the 45-year-old sunbed-tanned and Porsche-driving populist has polarised the Austrian elections, injecting passion into the most placid of political systems.

The latest opinion polls indicate that Herr Haider's right-wing Freedom Party is no longer merely a protest grouping but has become a third force in Austria, capable of shattering half a century of cosy consensus politics. The Social Democrats are in the lead with 34 to 35 per cent, the conservative People's Party has 26 to 28 per cent, and Herr Haider is supported by 23 to 25 per cent. There is still much to play for before the election on Sunday.

The rise of Herr Haider — only three years ago he was on the political margins with about 14 per cent of the vote — has prompted some unusual soul-searching. Is Herr Haider an Austrian version of Silvio Berlusconi,

a European Ross Perot? Certainly he has poached some Perot campaigning techniques, using flash cards during television debates with provocative questions ("Who has stolen our gold reserves?") and dubious statistics. But perhaps, his critics say, Herr Haider is something more sinister: the personification of the dark side of Austria.

He has reinvented himself many times. Once he was a committed pro-European: now he is equally committed against European Union membership and to European monetary union. Once he was a pan-Germanist: now he speaks about increasing German influence. Three years ago he praised Hitler's employment policies; now he is for radical spending cuts.

On the campaign trail in Carinthia, Herr Haider barely needs to exercise his fabled charisma. This is his home territory. He jumps on the stage — the backdrop poster reads: "He has never lied to you!" — and launches into a 12-minute law and order speech.

He wants a slimmer State, he says in a clear tenor that soars above the

clinking beer glasses, but not a slimmer health system or police force. The audiences bang their fists on the trestle-tables in applause. Then Herr Haider is off to the next beer hall and a brass band strikes up again.

The local Freedom Party candidates



Haider yesterday: uses Perot campaigning techniques

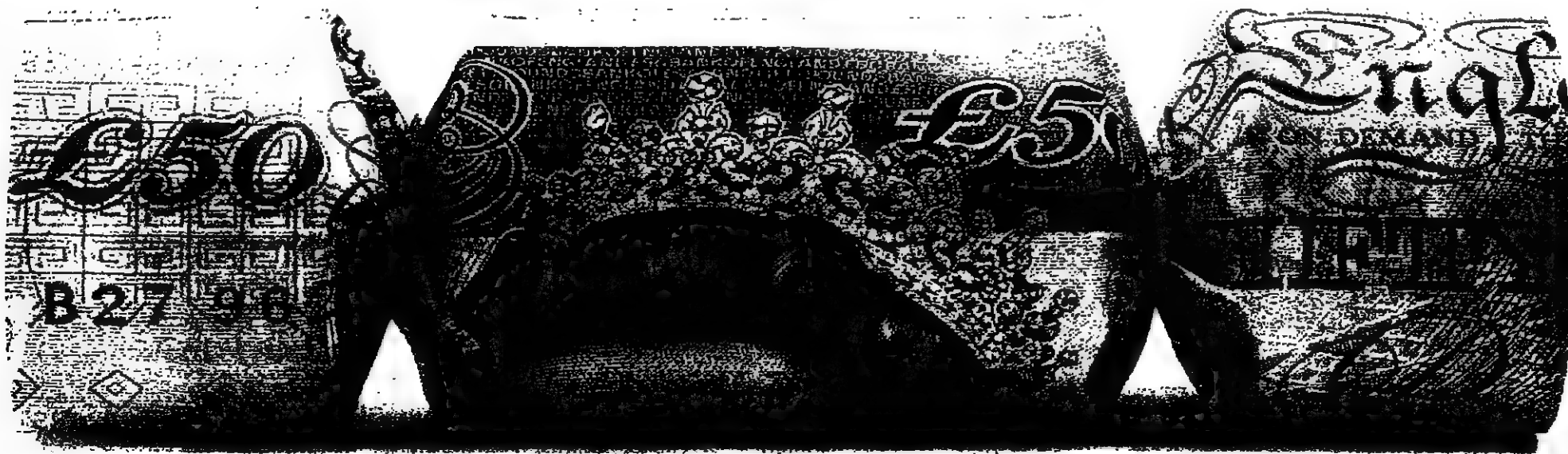
try to bask in the aura of their departed boss. His phrases and examples have been dutifully written down in notebooks and will be repeated throughout the campaign.

His parents were Nazis. His father, whose Carinthian estates were inherited by Jörg, took part in the unsuccessful 1934 Austrian putsch attempt; his mother was group leader of a Nazi girls' organisation. In Austria, and especially in Carinthia, such a background does not disqualify anybody from a political career.

If, as seems possible, Herr Haider emerges from Sunday's elections with his power enhanced and makes common cause with Wolfgang Schüssel, the conservative leader, Austria will shift rightwards. But the betting is that Herr Haider would reinvent himself yet again, as a respectable figure of the Centre-Right. Whether Austrians are willing to accept yet another transformation in this most chameleon-like of politicians remains to be seen.

Leading article, page 19

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Prospects for peace recede as public-sector dispute heads for its 20th day

# Strikers challenge Juppé with biggest show of strength

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of thousands of workers and students yesterday took to the streets of France in their most massive display of union strength so far as a crippling public-sector strike headed for its twentieth day with a few signs of peace on the horizon.

The French Government was left reeling after yet another day of action was marked by spreading strikes, disrupted transport and huge demonstrations in cities and towns throughout the country. Unions claimed that 200,000 demonstrators had marched through Paris although police put the figure at around 50,000. Between 50,000 and 70,000 demonstrators protested in Bordeaux, Toulouse and Rouen and more than 100,000 assembled in Marseille, where police described the march as the largest since May 1968. Union organisers claimed that up to 300,000 people joined the Marseille demonstration.

Last month Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said that his Government would fall if two million protesters took to the streets in opposition to his plan to overhaul the welfare system. "M Juppé has talked of two million people. I believe he is going to have that number in the streets," Marc Blondel, head of the Force Ouvrière union, predicted as he joined the Paris march. "The balance of power is on the side of all the unions. So this is going to continue."

A series of meetings between the two sides and some key concessions by M Juppé have failed to pacify most of the unions. Strike leaders yesterday repeated demands for the entire welfare plan to be scrapped and railworkers voted to extend their strike by at least another 24 hours. "There is not one single objective, the withdrawal of the Juppé plan," Louis Vianet, head of the communist-led CGT union, said.

A third of France's 2.1 million civil servants stopped work yesterday, plunging public services into fresh chaos and nearly half the country's teachers also went on strike, closing most schools. The Government, which has a four-fifths majority in parliament, was expected to survive another vote of no confidence last night. But there are growing signs of rebellion within the ruling coalition. Philippe Briand, an MP in the ruling RPR party of which the Prime Minister is the formal head, spoke grimly of a real Juppé



Blondel: "the strikes are set to continue"

Paris: Tonnes of goose and duck livers are piling up in the warehouses of south-west France because of the strike, as many foie gras producers find they cannot ship or receive orders (Ben Macintyre writes). Foie gras makers sell 70 per cent of their product at Christmas, but disruptions to freight and postal services have pushed many to the edge of bankruptcy. "The situation is explosive and it cannot go on," said Henri-Bernard Cartier, president of the agricultural Gers. Foie gras makers are expected to mount their own demonstrations next month.

problem, as parliament prepared to debate the no confidence motion tabled by opposition Socialists.

"In order to be able to govern it is not enough just to have ideas, a plan, solutions, one must also persuade the people of what you want to do," M Briand said. M Juppé himself has become a prime focus of the strikers' anger. Cries of "Juppé, resign!" rang out as the marchers set out across Paris yesterday, waving banners, brandishing flaming torches and confronting the already solid traffic jams. One group carried a coffin, to signify the hoped-for burial of the Juppé welfare plan.

Yesterday's demonstration in Paris was the seventh in two months, and the largest yet. Striking air traffic controllers disrupted travel at both Paris airports yesterday morning and several provincial airports closed down while trains, the Metro and buses remained paralysed.

To avoid the traffic disruption the French Government has moved today's international conference on Bosnia outside Paris to the Royal Mont Abbey near Charles de Gaulle airport. In his latest, increasingly desperate bid to appease the strikers, on Monday night M Juppé agreed to hold a "social summit" on employment issues, but employers organisations yesterday criticised the move, saying it could open a Pandora's Box of demands from private sector workers.

Two of the more moderate unions have called for a return to work after M Juppé backed down and agreed to preserve railworkers' generous pension benefits and suspend a planned overhaul of the state-owned rail system. But the majority of labour leaders remain adamantly opposed to the rest of the Government's welfare package.



Demonstrators carry eye-shaped banners that read "Juppé, I am keeping my eye on you", through Nice yesterday. Thousands joined the protests against welfare reforms in towns and cities throughout France

## French leader forced to give ground

BY BEN MACINTYRE

JUST last week Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said bluntly that there would be no turning back on his plans to cut France's huge deficit in time for European monetary union.

However, a week is an eternity in politics when thousands are marching in protest and millions more are taking to the streets because public transport has been brought to a standstill for 20 days. M Juppé has been forced to eat at least some of his words or, as one comment-

or put it, he "has not yet eaten his hat but he has eaten the rim of it". However, while his concessions appear, at least on the surface, to signal a government retreat, the central elements of his plan to overhaul the country's indebted welfare system are still intact and the Government's drive towards EMU remains, at least in numerical terms, on track.

The body contested five-year plan to overhaul the state-owned rail company SNCF, which rail workers rightly feared would lead to job losses with the closure of smaller branch lines, has been put "on

ice". M Juppé has now promised that still be allowed to retire at 50, ten years earlier than workers in the private sector.

He has also bowed to demands for a "social summit" with union leaders on a range of employment issues, while strike leaders have called for discussion of pay and unemployment. He has said he is prepared to "negotiate" on everything except welfare reform. However, there lies the rub: the concessions he has offered so far do not seriously impinge on his key economic calculations.

## Premier's condition worsens

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

TENSIONS in Greece's ruling Socialist party deepened as its ailing leader, Andreas Papandreu, 76, the Prime Minister, took a turn for the worse yesterday. Party faithful continue to feed off the reformers who are calling for the leader to be eased out.

Most Socialist parliamentary deputies remain cowed by Mr Papandreu even in the fourth week of his critical illness. But the medical team treating him at the Onassis Heart Centre said yesterday that his condition had taken "a dangerous turn" after an unspecified new viral infection.

## Fiat chief expected to play role of back-seat driver after retirement

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE abdication of Gianni Agnelli as chairman of Fiat will not erode his reputation as the uncrowned king of Italy, commentators said yesterday. Signor Agnelli, 74, announced on Monday that he would stand down next year after 30 years as chairman.

His successor to run Italy's largest private corporation will be Cesare Romiti, 72, Fiat's managing director. Magistrates in Turin want him to stand trial on corruption charges. But even if their formal request filed last week is rejected, company sources say that it is intended that Signor Romiti will be only a transitional chairman, to be succeeded when he reaches 75 by Signor Agnelli's nephew Giovanni Alberto, 31, who is

on the Fiat board. Signor Alberto is a popular figure who did his military service as a private in a parachute regiment of the carabinieri, the paramilitary police. His commercial training included six months on the Fiat assembly line under a pseudonym. He runs the Piaggio motor scooter company in Tuscany and is expected to become one of three new joint managing directors of Fiat.

But L'Avvocato, the lawyer, or Il Re, the king, as the sprightly outgoing chairman is known, will continue to take all major decisions on the future of his vast empire as long as his health lasts, insiders say. After he leaves the chair at Fiat's June annual general meeting, Signor Agnelli will still head the

family holding company that controls Fiat. Signor Agnelli has always eschewed formal politics but his pronouncements on Italy's destiny make



Agnelli: will run family controlling company

headlines. His interests have expanded beyond car production into many fields, including control of the Corriere della Sera and La Stampa newspapers, insurance, banking, chemicals, textiles, missile technology, munitions, mineral water and beer.

The power of his clan also is evident in the activities of his sister, Susanna Agnelli, who is Italy's first woman Foreign Minister and a dominant force in the Government of the Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini.

Signora Agnelli, 73, has lobbied for the European Union's inter-governmental conference on revising the Maastricht treaty to be held in Turin, which is known as a Fiat city, rather than in less drab regional capitals.

## Alpine ski slopes run risk of no snow

FROM REUTER IN ROME

WITHIN 50 years, skiers could find no snow on their favourite Alpine slopes, the environmental lobby group, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), said yesterday.

The group outlined the stark prediction as scientists from the United Nations-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change met in Rome to approve research that suggests the Earth's average temperature could rise by two degrees next century.

The WWF said that half the world's glaciers and 85 per cent of its deltas could disappear within 100 years as the greenhouse effect caused lower snowfalls, more rain and hotter summers.

Scientists believe that the phenomenon is caused largely by burning fossil fuels that

release greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, which trap heat in the atmosphere.

"The Alps are experiencing one of the fastest changes," said Paolo Lombardi, the international programme officer at WWF in Italy.

In some parts of the Swiss Alps, the snowline has risen 110 yards since 1980 and Martin Beniston, who helped to co-ordinate an IPCC study into the effect of global warming on mountains said that pattern was set to continue.

The expected rise in the snowline in winter is 100 metres for every degree increase in temperature," he said. Signor Lombardi said that that would put famous Alpine ski resorts such as Courcheval and Val d'Isère at risk.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Chechen election brought forward

Moscow: The pro-Moscow parliament in rebel Chechnya brought forward voting in national and local elections by three days yesterday in an attempt to keep them on track despite separatists' threats.

The Russia-wide election and the poll to find a Chechen leader had been planned for Sunday under plans to restore order to the region, the scene of a separatist rebellion in which thousands have been killed. Voting will start tomorrow instead. (Reuters)

### Manila alert

Manila: Philippines police were put on alert after a left-wing group killed four people, including an industrialist and a boy of five, in what President Ramos said was a declaration of war on the State. (Reuters)

### Rift warning

Sydney: Relations between Canberra and London could be damaged if Britain is dragged into the republican debate. Sir Roger Carrick, the British High Commissioner to Canberra, told monarchists.

### Train death trip

Munich: A sight-seeing trip aboard a glass-ceiling train ended in tragedy near the Austrian border when another train crashed into it head-on, killing one person and injuring 57, police said. (Reuters)

### Brussels march

Brussels: Tens of thousands of public service workers are expected to march today against government austerity plans and vent their fears of job losses in the privatisation of state companies. (AP)

### Deer life

New York: An American scientist trekking through remote valleys in Tibet has discovered a herd of red deer listed as "probably extinct". George Schaller found the herd 14,000ft above sea level.

### Castro in Tokyo

Tokyo: President Castro of Cuba arrived in Japan for his first visit, an unofficial, 24-hour stopover during which he is expected to meet the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. (Reuters)

### Father kills child

Missouri City: A man responding to a burglar alarm in his home shot and killed his daughter as she was hiding in a closet while playing truant. Police plan to refer evidence to a jury to decide charges. (AP)

### Afghans killed

Kabul: Three people, including two civilians, were killed and two others were injured when Taliban militia launched an artillery attack on the Afghan capital, witnesses and defence sources said. (AFP)

### Really big news

Peking: The Chinese Xian Evening News has reprinted an edition 1,590 times its original size, 95ft long and 64ft wide on canvas, which it says is the world's largest newspaper. (AP)

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Why Jaeger London, the company's sexy new directional line, has turned the spotlight on black this season

# Partying in a dark mood



**I**t's a fact of life. Everybody still wears black in the evening," says Jeanette Todd, the design director for Jaeger, explaining why she included a mini-collection of black party dresses within this season's main collection. "It still sends out a message which says, 'I'm dressed up. I'm going out.' It's difficult to wear a dress in another colour. It's too much of a statement."

There are a selection of styles which Ms Todd hopes will suit all ages and shapes: a V-neck flared dress; an empire-line number; a spaghetti-strap crepe dress; and an elegant long velvet dress with a white collar. Although Ms Todd hopes all women will welcome these dresses, she had one lady in mind when she designed this last dress: Anna Harvey, the *soignée* deputy editor of *Vogue*. "I could just see her in it," Ms Todd says.

Ms Todd believes the black dress is also a low-maintenance option, which explains its popularity during the festive season. "You just put it on and pull up the zip," she says. "It's an easy choice, but I also thought it was right for now."

There are few people who know as much as Ms Todd about getting it right. She trained in the exacting world of British haute couture, and has worked at every market level from Jean Muir to Monsoon, from Murray Arbell to Principles.

Her forte is image-building. Ms Todd joined Jaeger in 1992, and set about re-energising what had become a predictable and, well, dull label. "I wanted to do something which would sustain the traditional customer, but also create something new," she says. So she introduced Jaeger

*Fashion journalist of the year*



IAIN R. WEBB

London, which offers more directional fashion looks. "We took the concept of Jaeger and pushed it. What is great is that the mainline customer is coming along with us."

"Everybody thinks of their local Jaeger where their mum or great-aunt shops, but there are 150 outlets in the UK and a large international market. The range of product available has to work on every level."

Ms Todd is quick to point out that there is more to being a designer than sketching at a drawing board. She heads a small design team and works with design

co-ordinators who assemble the collections for both labels: the more mainstream Jaeger, and Jaeger London.

"It's not as if we're rocket scientists," she says, "but it's nice to offer newness to people. A label like Jaeger can say, 'C'mon, it's OK to wear chocolate-brown or leather jeans,' and people feel reassured. They know the quality will be good and it won't look mad."

"I think British brands like ourselves have a duty to offer a wearable interpretation of fashion. One of our bestselling lines, for example, is satin and velvet jeans, which doesn't really surprise me because I think we underestimate what women want to wear. They may wear the jeans in a different way with a fabulous sweater or a big shirt — not in a racy way — but they will look great. For spring we have even done hipsters."



**FAR LEFT:** Flared dress, £199; tuxedo jacket, £329. Court shoes, from a selection, Salvatore Ferragamo, 24 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 5007). Tights, £2.99, Sock Shop, branches nationwide.

**CENTRE ABOVE:** Strappy dress, £199. Link belt, £95. Diamante shoes, £39.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (0171-631 3543). Diamante earrings, £50, Tateossian, Jess James, 3 Newburgh Street, W1. Tights, as above.

**CENTRE BELOW:** Crêpe empire-line dress, £199. Silk shoes, £155, Salvatore Ferragamo, as above. Silk bag, from a selection, Russell & Bromley, Natural lights, £3.65. Pretty Polly, major department stores.

**LEFT:** Velvet dress, £249. Diamante/silver necklace, £105, Tateossian, as above. All clothes by Jaeger London at Jaeger, 200 Regent Street, W1 (0171-200 4211).

Photographs by NICK BRIGGS. Make-up by Ellie Wakarnatsu. Hair by Mandy Lyons. Styling by Philippa Esling.

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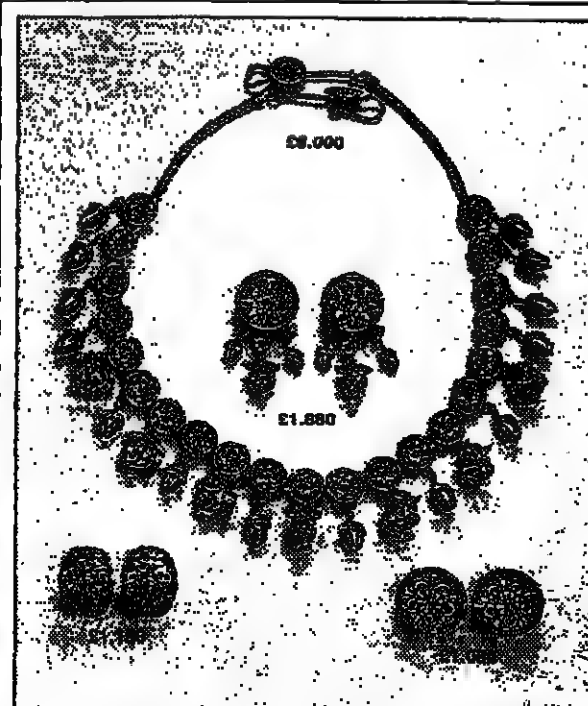
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## MORAL LOTTERY

Both regulation and regulator have futures at stake

The current dispute about the National Lottery differs sharply from those which have preceded it. In the 13 months since the first draw in November 1994 there have been heated arguments about the scale of the weekly jackpot and the artistic, sporting and charitable groups which have benefited from this national obsession. The current controversies surrounding GTEch, one of the companies in the Camelot consortium operating the lottery, have shifted debate onto unsettling new territory.

First, there is Richard Branson's allegations of attempted bribery by GTEch, the controversial US company which was eventually part of the winning lottery consortium. According to Mr Branson, who was at the time planning a bid on a non-profit basis for charity, the chairman of GTEch asked him pointedly: "There is always a bottom line... in what way can we help you?"

GTEch is an aggressive and successful company in the US gambling industry. Whatever the truth of the allegations made against it in BBC's *Panorama* programme on Monday night, GTEch's interest, like all other lottery bidders other than Mr Branson, was in bids being for-profit. The force of Mr Branson's allegation of attempted bribery may now be tested in court. Meanwhile the sense of unease is strong.

Secondly, there are the allegations involving the lottery regulator, Peter Davis. The claim that Mr Branson later told him of the bribe and that he took no action is contested. Uncontested is the fact that before the awarding of a later "scratchcard" contract to the consortium that included GTEch, Mr Davis used a private jet belonging to GTEch for trips around the US. Mr Davis's claim to the Commons Public Accounts Committee that he did so in order to save taxpayer's money was, at best, an admission of culpable naivety. At worst — and the full details of the trips have yet to be published by either the regulator or the Heritage Department — they are an offence too damaging for his position to be tenable. When the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, hears Mr Davis's account for herself she will have to decide.

The integrity of the lottery has already

suffered new and dangerous blows this week. Just how is it that this silk purse been turned into a sow's ear? One answer may be that those planning the lottery asked the wrong questions in the first place. When John Major first asked Whitehall to explore the idea in 1991, the greatest fear expressed was that the introduction of nationalised gambling would be a flop and a gross political embarrassment to ministers who had launched it with fanfare.

There was a strong predisposition to select a consortium with experience of running lotteries elsewhere. In fact, the lottery was always certain to succeed unless managed with peculiar incompetence. Almost anyone could make a profit from a state-sponsored monopoly gambling interest. Yet the private assumption in government circles when the lottery was launched was that the scheme could be entrusted only to the most experienced of hands.

Experience of gambling is not necessarily a virtue. Less time might have been spent worrying about the commercial prospects of the lottery, and more about the ethical dilemmas which its management would pose. Millions of Britons participate in the lottery every week. They all have a stake in who wins, who gains and how this new system of wealth redistribution is managed. Its regulation ought to be paramount. The greatest danger facing any regulator is what is known as "capture" by the companies under regulation. Mr Davis's acceptance of air flights from GTEch does not inspire confidence that he properly understood either the pressures or his responsibility.

The broad issue raised by this fiasco is the future of regulation itself. The early advocates of privatisation in this country argued that stern regulation would address the fears of those worried that public monopolies would become a licence to print money in private hands. The reality has been messier. In particular, the regulation of the water industry has failed to meet public needs; now the ethics of the National Lottery have been called into question. This is a downward trend which the Government must halt. At stake is more than the fate of a single bid for the lottery.

## HAIDER LAND

An unpleasant reminder of Viennese politics

The election campaign in Austria is turning nasty. A spate of letter-bombs has caused death and injury, mainly to prominent liberals, foreigners and those championing their cause. The election rhetoric in this normally cosy consensus state has grown sharper. And Jörg Haider, the radical right-wing leader of the Freedom Party, has injected an undertone that reminds all too many of Austria's darker, xenophobic past.

The rise of Herr Haider is a cause for concern. The latest polls show that his Freedom Party is no longer merely a protest of those frustrated by 40 years of corporatism; it now commands about a third of the vote. On Sunday he may be in a position to dictate terms to the Socialists and the People's Party, partners in the last tired coalition who fell out early over the Budget. Only three years ago he had no more than 14 per cent in the polls; his party had split; his petition to limit the rights of immigrants had fallen flat; and he was branded a pariah by the entire political establishment.

He thrived on such adversity. The more he was attacked, the greater his appeal in the Viennese backstreets and beerhalls of Carinthia. His message rang true, even to those who did not share his manicured far-right views. Postwar Austria has been an economic success story that has concealed the suffocating dictatorship of cronyism. Every job, every town hall appointment, every post in the Viennese music world has been filled by nominees of the two main parties,

working out the spoils in backroom deals. Unfortunately, such corporatist societies grow sloppy and inefficient. They offer no opening for those with a grievance or young radicals wanting to shake things up. And with the end of the Cold War, the loss of Austria's political niche as an East-West bridge and a professional neutralism, and the harsher competitive world of European Union membership, Austria's politicians have lost direction. Herr Haider, however, has not. Many of those to whom his telegenic looks and charismatic rhetoric appeal remember similar simple solutions put forward across the border in Germany some 60 years ago. Herr Haider — unlike some in his party — has always distanced himself from the uglier obsessions of Fascists and neo-Fascists. But his phrasing is reminiscent of the 1930s: he hits out at gypsies and homosexuals, talks about clearing the "muck from the stables" of the political establishment and rails against the invasion of Austria by immigrants and asylum-seekers.

It goes down well, and underlines the failure of Austrian society to make the spiritual break with the past that has been so complete and contrite in Germany. Herr Haider is probably too much of a chameleon and opportunist to pose a real threat to democracy. But he will do well only because of the widespread frustration with the consensus he has challenged. That is a measure of the failure of 40 years of Austrian politics.

## CHEERS, MR DORRELL

The Health Secretary has delivered us a Christmas present

The season of merriment and good cheer must be here. Yesterday the Department of Health recognised what most of us always suspected: not only is alcohol good for us, but the recommended maximum consumption levels have been set far too low. With appropriate timing, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, has raised the levels in time for Christmas parties.

This volte-face confirms the suspicion that the earlier limits were set artificially low by the health education industry so that it could lament the numbers who drank "unsafe" amounts of alcohol, and then ask for more government money to combat this "abuse".

Even now the recommendations seem to have been fairly arbitrarily drawn. A glance at other countries' maximum safe levels shows a huge variation, from one-and-a-half units a day for a Canadian man to 12 units a day for a French male manual worker. The only detectable correlations seem to be with religion and wine production. The most puritan, Protestant, politically correct countries have the lowest levels; while the Catholic, wine-growing countries have the highest.

Scientific evidence shows that alcohol improves people's health even at a relatively high level of consumption. A recent study of 12,000 British doctors over 13 years found that their death rate from all causes fell steadily with increased drinking until it reached a plateau from which it eventually started to rise again. But the level of drinking that

produced the same risk of death as the teetotaler was a massive 63 units a week, or well over a bottle of wine a day.

The Department of Health has chosen to recommend the point at which this plateau starts to return to a rising curve as its recommended daily maximum. It might just as easily have chosen the level at which drinking starts to become more dangerous than not drinking. But that would have been intolerably high for the roundheads.

For the main reason that moderate or non-drinkers disapprove of drinking has little to do with health, and even less to do with driving. Those who drink little find those who drink a lot boring, irritating and embarrassing. In a Protestant country which values self-control above most other qualities, other people's loss of inhibition makes observers feel desperately uncomfortable.

But to link higher recommended drinking levels with drink-driving, as both the British Medical Association and Labour's Harriet Harman did yesterday, is insulting to the intelligence of the population. People drink in context: someone who will happily down four glasses of wine at a party when a passenger may drink almost nothing when behind a wheel. Many who drink steadily in the evening would not dream of doing so at lunchtime. Objections to Mr Dorrell's new guidelines tell us more about the puritan tendencies of the objector than about the sense of the recommendations themselves.

## Call for a change in interest rates

From Professor Tim Congdon and others

Sir, In his Budget speech (report, November 29) the Chancellor of the Exchequer forecast a 3 per cent rise in gross domestic product in 1996. In subsequent evidence to the Treasury committee of the House of Commons Treasury officials, including Dr Alan Budd, the chief economic adviser, made clear that this forecast was not dependent on a cut in interest rates from their present level. We are writing to express our concern that the Government has underestimated the danger that the current slowdown in economic activity could persist well into next year. Specifically, we believe that if interest rates are unchanged output growth in 1996 is most unlikely to reach 3 per cent.

In evidence to the Treasury committee Mr Colin Mowat said that the Treasury expected GDP to rise by 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1995. If this proves correct, it is mechanical to show that output growth has to run at just over 0.9 per cent in every quarter of 1996 (ie, equivalent to an annualised rate of about 3.6 per cent) to generate a 3 per cent rise in GDP for the year as a whole.

A growth rate of 3.6 per cent is well above trend and would imply quite a dramatic improvement in economic conditions between the sluggishness of late 1995 and relative buoyancy in early 1996. There is little current evidence pointing to such an improvement. On the contrary, many traditionally reliable leading indicators of activity suggest that demand could weaken further in the next few months.

The indicators relate partly to the UK itself. In this country many companies hold above-normal levels of stocks, which need to be reduced by production cutbacks. In addition, the construction industry is in renewed recession and the latest business surveys show a major decline in the balance of manufacturing companies planning to raise output. But perhaps even more serious are leading indicators of activity in our European neighbours, which suggest a high risk of falling output. However astute our own policies might be, a period of declining GDP in Germany, France and the Benelux countries would undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the British economy.

In these circumstances the prudent course is to move interest rates downwards in order to ensure a revival in demand. Although we agree with the Treasury that an outright recession is still unlikely, the evidence of short-term weakness in sales and orders is of direct and immediate concern. We concede that inflationary pressures might re-emerge at some future point, perhaps in the late 1990s, but such worries are rather remote and a matter of conjecture.

To repeat, all three of us agree that, with current interest rates, the Treasury's growth forecast for 1996 is unlikely to be met.

Furthermore, we all believe that the Government's target of 2½ per cent underlying retail inflation at the end of the present Parliament will probably be achieved, even allowing for the impact of an early cut in interest rates.

Yours etc,  
TIM CONGDON,  
GAVIN DAVIES  
(Goldman Sachs International),  
PATRICK MINFORD  
(University of Liverpool),  
Lombard Street Research Ltd,  
Canon Bridge,  
25 Dowgate Hill, EC4A,  
December 12.

## Standing down

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)

Sir, Your Chief Political Correspondent, Nicholas Wood, claims today that I have indicated that I am standing down at the next election because of disenchantment with foreign policy issues.

I gave no such indication, on the radio or anywhere else. I am standing down because I have served for 30 years and it is time for a change, both for my constituents and for me!

I have my views on foreign policy development, which I shall continue to promote, but they have nothing whatever to do with my decision.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HOWELL (Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee),  
House of Commons,  
December 12.

## Penny foolish

From Mr Barney Alterman

Sir, Like Major Tristram (letter, December 2), see also letter, December 11) I too had a request from the Inland Revenue for a minute underpayment — 8p in my case. I paid this, in full, at no cost to myself, simply by cash via Bank Giro.

Yours faithfully,  
BARNEY ALTERMAN,  
3 Forest House, Russell-Cotes Road,  
Bournemouth, Dorset,  
December 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Problems in mathematics education

From Professor Emeritus Anthony Ralston

Sir, The suggestion that a ban on calculators in tests for 11 and 14-year-olds (report and leading article, December 7) may redress the perceived problems in British mathematics education is not borne out by research.

If you wish, as you should, to test mental arithmetic you must ban calculators. But to believe that perceived problems with fractions or decimals or the understanding of percentages is a result of introducing calculators too early would be laughable if it were not so sad. The chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) should be worried about the under-use rather than over-use of calculators.

It is now 13 years since Sir Wilfred Cockcroft's report, *Mathematics Counts*, correctly urged that "normally" a calculator should be used for long division. It noted that "the evidence is strong that the use of calculators has not produced any adverse effect on computational ability". Thirteen years on, the evidence in my view is far stronger, in spite of the SCAA's finding that division is a "particular weakness".

The traditional emphasis on pencil and paper calculation meant that students focused so much on the process that they tended to lose understanding of the purpose.

Sincerely,  
ANTHONY RALSTON  
(Academic Visitor,  
Department of Computing,  
Imperial College of Science,  
Technology, and Medicine),  
Flat 4, Albert Court,  
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7,  
December 7.

## Access to the law

From the Chairman of the Bar Council

Sir, I believe that the Head of the Public Information Office (letter, December 6; see also letters, December 8) has misunderstood the very fundamental question raised by Mr Justice Laddie (report, Law, December 5) on public access to the law of the land.

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, the legislature continues the policy of previous legislation of conferring copyright, in the laws passed by Parliament, on the Crown. This means, in effect, that Government has complete control over the publication of statutory material in any form.

Recent investigations conducted for the Bar Council suggest that the United Kingdom legislature is alone in

time when classroom testing was a routine part of a teacher's job" (leading article, December 7) but they may also remember that those tests were created and administered by the teachers themselves at a time most beneficial to the pupils in their care. They were not imposed from outside nor administered by inexperienced markers without adequate supervision.

If we could return to proper testing of the courses actually taught, rather than continue the present negative policy of insisting that teachers take hours of time in preparing pupils for inadequate tests, we should rapidly see standards rise.

I find it amazing that the SCAA should be surprised that the Shakespeare questions in tests for 14-year-olds elicited "unimaginative responses". If you set a question in the most pedestrian fashion you must surely expect a dull response.

Shakespeare is an author of miraculous quality: to reduce his work to a mere scene is to demean his creativity and the marvel of his imagination. When I wonder, did the "experts" at SCAA last actually teach Shakespeare?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN SMALL,  
Headmaster,  
Bootham School, York YO3 7BU,  
December 7.

From Mr James Macdonald

Sir, Government curriculum advisers have found that mathematical ability falls with calculators' use. This reinforces a long-suspected definition of a government adviser as someone paid to discover what the rest of us have known all along.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES MACDONALD,  
58 Clifford Avenue,  
Taunton, Somerset,  
December 7.

the whole of Europe, with the possible exception of Ireland, in granting to the State the means of controlling the dissemination of statutes and secondary legislation. Elsewhere in the world, the countries whose laws confer a similar monopoly on the State are generally those formerly governed by Britain, such as India and Singapore.

The Government should recognise that this privileged position can no longer be justified. Free competition in this area is as important as it is in other fields, such as the provision of telecommunication services. The law should be available to all at the minimum price, rather than at prices fixed by HMSO.

I am etc,  
PETER GOLDSMITH, Chairman,  
The General Council of the Bar,  
3 Bedford Row, WCI,  
December 8.

## Costs against JPs

From Eur Ing Dr Peter L. Wyke

Sir, Predictable concern has been expressed in your columns at the award of costs against lay justices when their decisions are reversed following appeal (letters, December 4, 6, 12). Echoes of surcharging those found wanting in the exercise of public service are brought to mind; but it must be remembered that the performance of civic, including judicial, duty carries a proper burden of responsibility.

Lay magistrates, elected through advisory committees, epitomise the age-old infatuation with all things amateur in these islands. Their contribution to community cohesion and so-

cial levelling is well recorded, alongside that of other lay bodies; but despite some diminution in local esteem, their status is achieved without the need to expend long years in academic study and professional development.

The need for a more focused and professional structure throughout the judiciary has never been greater. In view of the increasing availability of trained graduates the tendency to appoint stipendiary magistrates is to be applauded.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER L. WYKE,  
Trefnant Hall,  
Trefnant Park,  
Acrefair, Wrexham, Clwyd,  
December 12.

## Divorce reform

From Professor J. Thomas Oldham

Sir, During my recent stay in England I was interested in the debate about the Government's divorce reform package (letters, November 2, 7, 11, 17, December 12). The principal public concern regarding the proposed divorce law appears to be whether the law will significantly increase the English divorce rate. This concern appears unwarranted; most American scholars agree that the acceptance of no-fault divorce has not significantly affected the divorce rate in the US.

The proposal might have another less obvious effect that deserves attention. The current rule distinguishes between divorces by mutual consent and unilateral divorces. Under the current English system, unless the spouse desiring divorce can establish a fault ground the "deserted" spouse

can extract some concessions for agreeing to a divorce by mutual consent. Otherwise, divorce cannot be obtained for five years.

The proposed change would alter this bargaining: all divorces could be obtained in one year, regardless whether the divorce was by mutual consent.

Before the divorce-reform proposal is accepted it might be useful to contemplate its effect on the bargaining of the spouses and to consider whether any amendments to the proposal therefore might be useful.

Sincerely,  
TOM OLDHAM  
(Visiting scholar, Wolfson College, Cambridge),  
The Law Center,  
University of Houston,  
4800 Calhoun Boulevard,  
Houston, Texas 77204-6371,  
December 8.

## Cabinet complication

From Mr Geoffrey Wheatcroft

Sir, In his interesting article ("Five pillars of wisdom", December 11) on the likely "big five" in a future Blair Cabinet, Anthony Howard unwittingly highlights the huge constitutional trap which Labour has set for itself. That Cabinet will be committed to a devolved parliament for Scotland. And yet no fewer than three of Mr Howard's five are Scottish MPs.

The problem is not new, nor are answers far to seek. Under the first Home Rule Bill of 1886 Irish MPs were no longer to sit in the House of Commons. Under the second Bill of 1893 Irish MPs were to remain at Westminster with a view to guarding

Irish interests, but halved in numbers, and with the crucial proviso that they would only vote on legislation directly affecting Ireland.

To those who advocated Home Rule the idea that a British Cabinet might be dominated by Irish MPs would have seemed too absurd to be worth discussing.

Can Mr Blair and his colleagues really not see that their own position is no less absurd?

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY WHEATCROFT,  
11 Southstoke Road,  
Combe Down, Bath, Avon,  
December 11.

Business letters, page 29

## The future of rail privatisation

From Mr David Taylor

Sir, The opponents of rail privatisation are now in full cry. While the Government courageously tries to carry through its plans to denationalise this money-losing, over-manned, bureaucratic monster, union leaders, new Labour, Liberals and others campaign for the plan to be dropped and replaced by a programme of throwing unlimited taxpayers' money at it, politely called "investment in public transport".

My crystal ball tells me that in five years' time, as rail services improve and expand, these same people will be demanding further reductions in fares in order that the travelling public can share in the profits that have been generated from an efficiently run rail service. Others will be demanding a "windfall tax" to cream off further profits.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID TAYLOR,  
20 Chesnow Drive, Blechley,  
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,  
December 12.

From Dr William K. Kay

Sir, Now that the Government has presented its case for the privatisation of the railways with such persuasiveness and intellectual rigour, and the policy shows every sign of being a great success, may I suggest the following new policies be placed in the Conservative manifesto for the forthcoming general election.

All the major road systems in Britain should be classified and sold off to separate parties. This would allow private money to be poured into our motorways and, despite any slight inconveniences which might occur as a result of our having to drive seamlessly from roads owned by one party to roads owned by another, the money raised by the resultant flotation could be used to the enormous benefit of allowing an extra halfpenny to be cut from the basic rate of taxation.

More daring, perhaps, would be the notion of selling our airspace to private companies. I would like to suggest that the Government considers dividing our airspace into layers 1,000 metres thick and about 50 miles wide. A complicated toll system, policed and controlled by modern technology, would ensure that all aircraft and racing pigeons paid the appropriate company its dues. We would all be immeasurably richer by this sale of fresh air.

Yours sincerely,  
W. KAY,  
7 Croft Way, Everton,  
Nr Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

## Industrial prisons

From His Honour Judge Stephen Tumim

Sir, I am delighted to read (News in brief, December 9) that a Home Office minister has said in the House of Commons that prisoners should be given proper work in prison and paid wages to help to stop their families being a burden on the State; and that higher-paid prisoners could pay income tax. This is a policy which as Chief Inspector of Prisons I urged on the Government for some years.

Prisoners would acquire skills and self-respect from the practice of work and be less likely to commit crime. This is the first acknowledgement by a minister of the potential value of the policy. I hope it is to be adopted and the industrial prison made a reality.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN TUMIM,  
The Garrick Club,  
Garrick Street, WC2,  
Donmarket.

## Likeness in stone

From the Dean of Ely

Sir, Your leader of December 11, drawing attention in general to overseas funding for our national heritage and in particular to John Paul Getty II's preservation of the "unspoiled view" of Ely Cathedral sailing above the Fens, was most welcome.

In the case of cathedrals philanthropy transcends not only national frontiers but also frontiers of faith. Since 1988 Ely Cathedral has raised over £7 million in voluntary gifts for our current restoration. One substantial gift came from an Arab racehorse-owner in Newmarket.

So that we can celebrate the millennium by completing our restoration we have invented a new verb. To be "cathedralised" ensures that benefactors not only preserve the heritage but also preserve their own likeness for posterity in stone. We hope that major philanthropists will be queuing to take advantage of this facility.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL J. HIGGINS,  
The Deanery,  
The College, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

## What shepherds watch

From Mr Andrew Griffith

Sir, Your leader today ("Silence of the lambs") neatly underlines the growing differences between town and country by referring to "herds of sheep".

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW GRIFFITH,  
Allnott's Farm,  
Henton, Chinnor, Oxford,  
December 1.







**ARTHUR MULLARD**

distance in 19.3 sec on a dry track. The record for a dog over the distance is 20.75 sec.



# Principles relating to establishment of professional services in EU

**Gebhard v Consiglio dell'Ordine degli Avvocati e Procuratori di Milano**  
Case C-55/94

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. N. Kakouris, D. A. O. Edwards, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schockweiler, J. C. Molinero de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gutmann, J. L. Murray, P. Jann, H. Ragnemalm and L. Sevón.  
Advocate General P. Léger.  
(Opinion June 20)  
[Judgment November 30]

In the context of proceedings concerning the setting up by a German lawyer of chambers in Italy, the Court of Justice of the European Communities laid down a number of principles relating to the right of establishment and provision of services.

The Consiglio Nazionale Forense (National Council of the Bar), Italy, had, by order of December 16, 1993, referred to the court for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty two questions on the interpretation of Council Directive 77/249/EEC of March 22, 1977 to facilitate the effective exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services (OJ 1977 L28 p17).

The questions were raised in proceedings in which Mr Reinhard Gebhard, a member of the Stuttgart Bar who had opened his own chambers in Milan, challenged a decision by the Milan Bar Council suspending him from pursuing his professional activities on the ground that he had contravened his obligations under an Italian law by pursuing a professional activity in Italy on a permanent basis in chambers set up by himself while using the title "avvocato".

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The situation of a Community national who moved to another member state of the Community to pursue an economic activity there was governed by the chapter of the Treaty on the free movement of workers, which was not relevant to the present questions and so could be disregarded, or the chapter on the right of establishment, or the chapter on services; those being mutually exclusive.

The provisions of the chapter on services were subordinate to those of the chapter on the right of establishment in so far as (i) the wording of the first paragraph of article 59 assumed that the provider and the recipient of the service concerned were "established" in two different member states and (ii) the first paragraph of article 60 specified that the provisions relating to services applied only if those relating to the right of establishment did not apply.

It was therefore necessary to consider the scope of the concept of

"establishment". The right of establishment, provided for in articles 52 to 58 of the Treaty, was granted both to legal persons within the meaning of article 58 and to natural persons who were nationals of a member state of the Community.

Subject to the exceptions and conditions laid down, it allowed all types of self-employed activity to be taken up and pursued on the territory of any other member state, undertakings to be formed and operated, and agencies, branches or subsidiaries to be set up.

It followed that a person could be established, within the meaning of the Treaty, in more than one member state, in particular, in the case of companies, through the setting up of agencies, branches or subsidiaries (article 52) and, as the court had held, in the case of members of the professions, by establishing a second professional base.

The concept of establishment within the meaning of the Treaty was therefore a very broad one, allowing a Community national to participate, on a stable and

continuous basis, in the economic life of a member state other than his state of origin and to profit therefrom, so contributing to economic and social interpenetration within the Community in the sphere of activities as self-employed persons.

In contrast, where the provider of services moved to another member state, the provisions of the chapter on services, in particular the third paragraph of article 60, envisaged that he was to pursue his activity there on a temporary basis.

The temporary nature of the activities in question had to be determined in the light, not only of the duration of the provision of the service, but also of its regularity, periodicity or continuity.

The fact that the provision of services was temporary did not mean that the provider of services within the meaning of the Treaty could not equip himself with some form of infrastructure in the host member state, including an office, chambers or consulting rooms, in so far as such infrastructure was necessary for the purposes of

performing the services in question.

However, that situation was to be distinguished from that of Mr Gebhard who, as a national of a member state, pursued a professional activity on a stable and continuous basis in another member state where he held himself out from an established professional base to, among others, nationals of that state. Such a national came under the provisions of the chapter relating to the right of establishment and not that relating to services.

The Milan Bar Council argued that a person such as Mr Gebhard could not be regarded for the purposes of the Treaty as being "established" in a member state, in his case, Italy, unless he belonged to the professional body of that state or, at least, pursued his activity in collaboration or in association with persons belonging to that body.

That argument could not be accepted.

The provisions relating to the right of establishment covered the taking up and pursuit of activities. Membership of a professional

body might be a condition of taking up and pursuit of particular activities, but could not itself be constitutive of establishment.

It followed that the question whether it was possible for a national of a member state to exercise his right of establishment and the conditions for exercise of that right had to be determined in the light of the activities which he intended to pursue on the territory of the host member state.

Under the terms of the second paragraph of article 52, freedom of establishment was to be exercised under the conditions laid down for its own nationals by the law of the country where establishment was effected.

In the event that the specific activities in question were not subject to any rules in the host state, so that a national of that member state did not have to have any specific qualification in order to pursue them, a national of any other member state was entitled to establish himself on the territory of the first state and pursue those activities there.

However, the taking up and pursuit of certain self-employed

activities might be conditional on complying with certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action justified by the general good, such as rules relating to organisation, qualifications, professional ethics, supervision and liability.

Such provisions might stipulate in particular that pursuit of a particular activity was restricted to holders of a diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualifications, to persons belonging to a professional body or to persons subject to particular rules or supervision.

They might also lay down the conditions for the use of professional titles, such as "avvocato". Where the taking up or pursuit of a specific activity was subject to such conditions in the host member state, a national of another member state intending to pursue that activity must in principle comply with them.

It was for that reason that article 57 provided that the Council was to issue directives, such as Council Directive 89/48/EEC of December 21, 1988 on a general system for the recognition of higher education

diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training of at least three years' duration (OJ 1988 L19 p16), for the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications, or for the coordination of national provisions concerning the taking up and pursuit of activities as self-employed persons.

It followed, however, from the court's case law - that national measures liable to hinder or make less attractive the exercise of fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Treaty had to fulfil four conditions:

- 1 They must be applied in a non-discriminatory manner;
- 2 They must be justified by imperative requirements in the general interest;
- 3 They must be suitable for securing the attainment of the objective which they pursued; and
- 4 They must not go beyond what was necessary in order to attain that objective.

Likewise, in applying their national provisions, member states could not ignore the knowledge and qualifications already ac-

quired by the person concerned in another member state.

Consequently, they had to take account of the equivalence of diplomas and, if necessary, proceed to a comparison of the knowledge and qualifications required by their national rules and those of the person concerned.

On those grounds the Court of Justice ruled:

- 1 The temporary nature of the provision of services envisaged in the third paragraph of article 60 of the EC Treaty, was to be determined in the light of its duration, regularity, periodicity and continuity.
- 2 The provider of services, within the meaning of the Treaty, could equip himself in the host member state with the infrastructure necessary for the purposes of performing the services in question.
- 3 A national of a member state who pursued a professional activity on a stable and continuous basis in another member state where he held himself out from an established professional base to, among others, nationals of that state, came under the provisions of the chapter relating to the right of establishment and not those of the chapter relating to services.
- 4 The possibility for a national of a member state to exercise his right of establishment, and the conditions for the exercise of that right, had to be determined in the light of the activities which he intended to pursue on the territory of the host member state.
- 5 Where the taking up of a specific activity was not subject to any rules in the host state, a national of any other member state would be entitled to establish himself on the territory of the first state and pursue that activity there.

On the other hand, where the taking up or the pursuit of a specific activity was subject to certain conditions in the host member state, a national of another member state intending to pursue that activity must in principle comply with them:

- 6 National measures liable to hinder or make less attractive the exercise of fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Treaty must fulfil four conditions:
- (i) they must be applied in a non-discriminatory manner;
- (ii) they must be justified by imperative requirements in the general interest;
- (iii) they must be suitable for securing the attainment of the objective which they pursued; and
- (iv) they must not go beyond what was necessary in order to attain it.
- 7 Member states must take account of the equivalence of diplomas and, if necessary, proceed to a comparison of the knowledge and qualifications required by their national rules and those of the person concerned.

## Procedural fairness in operation of public safety exclusion orders

**Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Gallagher**  
Case C-175/94

Before C. N. Kakouris, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schockweiler and P. J. G. Kapteyn.  
Advocate General M. B. Elmer.  
(Opinion October 12)  
[Judgment November 30]

A Community directive prohibited administrative authorities from taking a decision ordering the expulsion of a foreign national on the ground of, inter alia, public security, before a competent authority had given its opinion, except in cases of urgency.

Provided that it could perform its duties independently, the competent authority could be appointed by the administrative authority that took the decision ordering expulsion.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty made by the Court of Appeal by order of February 10, 1994 in proceedings by Mr John Gallagher raising questions of interpretation of article 9 of Council Directive 64/221/EEC of February 25, 1964 on the coordination of special measures concerning the movement and residence of foreign nationals which were justified on grounds of public morality, public security or public health (OJ,

English Special Edition 1963-1964, p17).

By section 7 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989, if the secretary of state was satisfied that a person had been involved in certain acts of terrorism, he could make an exclusion order, prohibiting that person from being in or entering the United Kingdom.

Under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2, a person objecting to an exclusion order made against him could make representations in writing, including a request for an interview with a person or persons nominated by the secretary of state.

In 1983, Mr Gallagher, an Irish national, was sentenced to imprisonment in Ireland for possession of rifles for unlawful purposes.

Later Mr Gallagher travelled to and worked in the United Kingdom, and in September 1991 he was arrested under the 1989 Act and served with an exclusion order under section 7.

After his removal Mr Gallagher raised objections against the exclusion order under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2.

He was interviewed at the British Embassy in Dublin in December 1991. The person nominated by the secretary of state did not reveal his identity and did not provide any information on the ground of the exclusion.

The secretary of state reconsidered the case pursuant to para-

graph 4 of Schedule 2 to the 1989 Act, but did not alter his decision.

Mr Gallagher contended that his exclusion before he had been able to make representations or meet the person nominated by the secretary of state was contrary to article 9 of Directive 64/221, and that, by virtue of the manner of his appointment, the person nominated was not competent to deliver the opinion required under article 9.

The two questions referred were in connection with these issues.

Article 9 provides: "(1) Where there is no right of appeal to a court of law, or where such appeal may be only in respect of the legal validity of the decision, or where the appeal cannot have suspensory effect, a decision refusing renewal of a residence permit or ordering the expulsion of the holder of a residence permit from the territory shall not be taken by the administrative authority, save in cases of urgency, until an opinion has been obtained from a competent authority of the host country before which the person concerned enjoys such rights of defence and of assistance or representation as the domestic law of that country provides for. This authority shall not be the same as that empowered to take the decision refusing renewal of the residence permit or ordering expulsion."

"(2) Any decision refusing the issue of a first residence permit or ordering expulsion of the person concerned before the issue of the permit shall, where that person so requests, be referred for consideration to the authority whose prior opinion is required under paragraph (1). The person concerned shall then be entitled to submit his defence in person."

In its judgment the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The Court of Appeal did not specify in its questions whether it was seeking a ruling on the interpretation of article 9(1) or 9(2) of the directive.

However, the Commission submitted, and the United Kingdom agreed, that since under UK legislation Irish nationals were not required to hold a residence permit in order to reside in the United Kingdom, a decision to exclude an Irish national working in the UK who did not hold a residence permit fell within the scope of article 9(1).

It was settled law that the object of article 9(1) was to ensure minimum procedural safeguards for persons affected by a decision refusing renewal of a residence permit or ordering the expulsion of the holder of a residence permit.

The court had also already held that the purpose of the intervention of the competent authority referred to in article 9(1) was to enable an administrative examination of all the facts and circumstances, including the expediency of the proposed measure, to be carried out before the decision was finally taken, and, in, for example, Joined Cases C-297/88 and C-497/89 *Dzodzi* v

Belgium (1990) ECR I-3763, paragraph 62, that, save in cases of urgency, the administrative authority could not take its decision until an opinion had been obtained from the competent authority.

The distinction between article 9(1) and (2) was that in situations covered by subsection (1) the opinion had to be obtained before the decision was taken, whereas in situations covered by subsection (2) the opinion was obtained after the decision had been taken and only at the request of the person concerned if he had raised objections.

The directive did not specify how the competent authority referred to in article 9(1) was to be appointed.

It did not require that the authority be appointed by a court or be composed of members of the judiciary, or that members of the authority be appointed for a specific period.

The essential requirements were:

- 1 It was clearly established that the authority was to perform its duties in absolute independence and was not to be directly or indirectly subject, in the exercise of its duties, to any control by the authority empowered to take the measures provided for in the directive; and
- 2 The authority followed a procedure enabling the person concerned, on the terms laid down by the directive, effectively to present his defence to *Dzodzi* paragraph 65.

It was for the national court to

determine in each case whether those requirements had been met.

The objectives of the system provided for by the directive required that the opinion be duly notified to the person concerned, but the directive did not require the opinion to identify by name the members of the authority or indicate their professional status, as such identification was only relevant for the purpose of enabling the national court to determine whether the members of the authority were independent and impartial.

On those grounds the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice ruled:

- 1 Article 9(1) of Directive 64/221 was to be interpreted as meaning that, save in cases of urgency, it prohibited the administrative authority from taking a decision ordering expulsion before a competent authority had given its opinion.
- 2 Article 9(1) did not preclude the competent authority referred to in that provision from being appointed by the same administrative authority as took the decision ordering expulsion, provided that the competent authority could perform its duties in absolute independence and was not subject to any control by the authority empowered to take the measures provided for in the directive.
- 3 It was for the national court to determine in each case whether those requirements had been met.

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It would be a tragedy if funding cuts meant having to pull the plug on a radio service that unites people around the globe and is the pride of Britain

## BBC service is simply out of this world

If the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, Bart's Hospital and Twyford Down are not sacred, what hope is there for the BBC World Service? The international radio service of which Britain is ostensibly so proud has just been dealt a series of cruel cuts. These include one the Government promised it would not make in the current three-year period, for which the books had already been closed.

There is hope all the same, because Parliament has a good record of rallying round the World Service. Today at the House of Commons Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Loominster, is holding a briefing for concerned Conservative MPs. Joyce Quinn, Shadow Foreign Office spokesperson, is also looking for parliamentary ways to fight the cuts.

Yet to most in Britain, the World Service is invisible and, except for insomniacs who catch it in the middle of the night when it occupies Radio 4's long-wave slot, largely inaudible. Although national pride may swell at the thought of the service reaching 133 million people every week, it may be dimmed by the knowledge that much of the output is in 41 non-English languages. How much popular support is there for keeping the BBC in Azeri and Uzbek?

Travelling Britons can never know what the BBC World Service means to the non-English-speaking audience. It is hard to find the main English-language service on your short-wave portable, although the World Service's advice to place the radio near a window worked for me recently in Peking. What the visitor will notice, however, is the way that English-speakers abroad break a conversation to catch the latest bulletin, headed with the magic words: "This is London."

The best publicity for the World Service has come from former hostages. The released American hostage Terry Anderson said — I quote from memory: "If you took a whole bunch of money, you could not come up with anything better than the BBC World Service."

But a whole bunch of money is not available. Why should the World Service, which received £157 million for broadcasting in 1994-95, not bear its share of cuts when other corners of the Foreign Office are bearing worse?

Because the World Service is the best of whatever Britain is, delivered through the medium in whose use the national genius excels: the spoken word. Trawl through the crackling short-wave options and hear how many varieties of international broadcasting in English there are. None of them sounds like the BBC, because the BBC never sounds like the Voice of Britain — that is, government radio.



BRENDA MADDOX

Government chose not to put public funds behind it. The television service (launched in 1991, unobtainable in this country) is paid for by advertising. I shudder to see the World (Radio) Service being pushed in a commercial direction.

On the face of it, the Foreign Secretary's announcement on November 28 merely suggests that the World Service seek private money for some of its capital projects. Commercial investors, so the official argument goes, could replace the £9.5 million worth of cuts in the capital budget imposed on the next two spending years.

But that suggestion is the thin end of a dangerous wedge. The World Service uses its capital funds mainly to build new transmitters: poor audibility remains its biggest problem. Entrusting the delivery of bits and pieces of the BBC's international network to

commercial hands in dicey political climes abroad is another. Besides, even if private money were found, the World Service would still have to pay for leasing the transmitters back. Lo and behold: in 1997-98, the operating budget is to be cut by £4.5 million.

Private investment has murky implications. It would further undermine the flimsy Chinese walls which divide the three distinct BBCs. These are: 1) the BBC home service; licence-fee supported television and radio; 2) BBC World Service Television, paid for by advertising; and 3) the World (Radio) Service, paid for by the Foreign Office.

To be sure, the divisions between the three are crystal clear to the BBC's administrators. They keep scrupulous books to be sure that every contribution is paid for by the service which used it. It is

less clear to the BBC staff person or stringer who travels hundreds of miles into a dangerous hinterland, speaking alternatively for microphone or camera. Which service has the highest claim on their energies? I heard at least one complaint of feeling caught in a war between Bush House and the lovingly fostered World Television Service at Shepherds Bush.

For, despite the BBC's fashionable doctrine of "bimediacy", these three services are not interchangeable. World Service radio is particularly special because of its multinational reach into rural areas. In the view of Fritz Groenhuis, the World Service's head of strategy development, the method of delivery will shift from short wave to satellite only when there is a digital system receivable on cheap, mass-produced and globally obtainable radios.

With luck, what comes out of that cheap set of the future will remain something rare: uniquely British, recognised as the best in the world. It deserves special protection.

## Lineker scores a goal for Walkers

Mr Nice Guy's crisps are up, Persil is down, but Coke is still king. Alan Mitchell on the grocery wars



Gary Lineker has helped Walkers Crisps to become the number three brand name

Sales of the top soap brand Persil have plummeted by nearly 20 per cent since its disastrous launch of Persil Power. The Unilever-owned brand saw its sales through major grocers drop by £45 million in the year to August, leaving Persil trailing far behind its arch-rival Ariel.

Both Persil and Ariel, however, have been knocked off their perches at the top of the league of Britain's best performing brands by extraordinary performances from Nescafé, whose sales soared by an extra £45 million, and Walkers Crisps, which gained an astonishing extra £50 million-worth of supermarket revenues. The top grocery brand in Britain, according to Check-out magazine's annual ranking (see table), is Coca-Cola.

The figures, compiled by market researcher Nielsen, underline the unpredictability of Britain's big brand wars. Six of last year's top 50 — Andrex, Robinson's Squash, Tetley tea, Felix cat food, Golden Wonder crisps and Pot Noodles — have changed owners. And the highest profile marketing contests have produced unexpected results.

Coca-Cola, the world's biggest brand, may have been humiliated by Sainsbury's launch of its Classic Cola, which instantly grabbed 60 per cent of Sainsbury's cola sales, but the "cola wars" have also aroused public interest in the category. Coke's sales are up 4 per cent, and Pepsi's have increased by 7 per cent.

The biggest victor in the great Persil Power spat was not Procter & Gamble's Ariel but own-labels. Ariel may have trounced Persil in the public relations war but it did not earn much thanks from consumers who deserted it also, leaving annual sales down £17 million.

Marketing experts say the row between the two firms over Power's alleged fabric-shredding propensities only underlined consumer confusion over which of a plethora of variants they should use. John Ballington, Lever Brothers' sales director, says that Persil sales are now climbing back. He says: "Consumers are swinging back to cheaper conventional powders." The biggest beneficiaries are supermarket sub-brands such as Sainsbury's Novon and Sainsbury's Cyclon.

Another upset is the dethroning of PG Tips, which was the nation's favourite tea brand for 36 years. PG's sales slumped 12 per cent last year while the Tetley's tea folk have helped to make its product Britain's most popular.

## BSkyB in five million homes

THE SATELLITE television company, BSkyB, boasted last week that it had signed up its five millionth subscriber and claimed that it was now accessible to around 25 per cent of the population.

Audiences for satellite and cable television remain tiny, however, compared with those attracted by the four main channels. The top two programmes in our ratings chart attracted 1.1 million each, compared with the top two terrestrial television, which attracted 22.8 million and 17.8 million respectively.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, will no

### NETWORK, SATELLITE AND CABLE

Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Genre	Audience (m)
1 Panorama Special	Mon 20	21.42	BBC1	BBC News and Current Affairs	Current Affairs	22.8
2 Coronation Street	Mon 20	19.30	ITV	Granada Television	S soap	17.8
3 Heartbeat	Sun 19	19.00	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Drama Series	16.9
4 Eastenders	Tue 21	18.29	BBC1	BBC	S soap	15.6
5 London's Burning	Sun 19	21.05	ITV	LWT	Drama Series	14.9
6 British Antiquity	Sat 25	20.00	BBC1	BBC	Documentary	14.2
7 The National Lottery Live	Sat 25	19.50	BBC1	BBC	Entertainment	14.2
8 Casualty	Sat 25	20.07	BBC1	BBC	Drama Series	13.7
9 Soldier Soldier	Tue 21	21.01	ITV	Central Television	Drama Series	12.5
10 The Bill	Tue 21	18.59	ITV	Thames Television	Drama Series	12.5

### Satellite & Cable Homes

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Audience (m)
1 The Simpsons	Sun 18	18.00	SKY1	Gracie Films	Animation	1.1
2 Beethoven's 2nd	Tue 23	20.01	SKY1	Universal Pictures	Film	0.7
3 Super Sunday Football	Sun 18	12.45	SKY1	British Sky Broadcasting	Sport	0.7
4 Goldfinger	Sun 18	18.01	SKY1	United Artists/Eon	Film	0.7
5 Monday Night Football	Mon 19	20.00	SKY1	British Sky Broadcasting	Sport	0.6
6 Small World	Sat 25	22.02	SKY1	Felix Productions	Film	0.5
7 Cool Running	Sun 18	18.00	TVC	Walk Disney	Film	0.5
8 Super Sunday Football	Sun 18	14.45	SKY1	British Sky Broadcasting	Sport	0.5
9 Beverly Hills 90210	Sun 18	18.00	SKY1	Twentieth Century Fox	Drama Series	0.4
10 Earth 2	Wed 22	20.00	SKY1	Amblin Entertainment	Drama Series	0.4

BARS (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 01823-322929. Copyright © 1995. All rights reserved. Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (\*).

## Talk about upward mobility

Alexandra Frean on the radio station that swapped shock jocks for celebrity squares

It is hard to believe that Travis Baxter, managing director of Talk Radio, was once a DJ. Although he professes a devotee's enthusiasm for the world he inhabits, Baxter speaks of the industry in terms of branding, markets, product, turnover and returns on investment.

Such inherent contradictions make him well suited, perhaps, for the task of resuscitating Talk Radio, Britain's third national commercial radio station, from ridicule and financial disaster. Launched in February, Talk Radio was the first UK national station to import the American format based on phone-ins, chat shows and provocative presenters known as "shock jocks".

The station's early days were marred by its presenters' apparent lack of experience and flair, and an almost total absence of research. Audiences and advertisers did not like it and Talk Radio quickly shed a number of presenters and senior managers.

Yet since CLT, the Luxembourg media conglomerate, took a 49 per cent stake in it last month and installed Baxter as managing director, the station has made a series of programming changes designed to create a more thoughtful image and expand its weekly audience of 2.3 million.

Baxter wants to turn Talk Radio into a "Daily Mail-type" radio station which takes a populist approach to the major issues that affect and interest Middle Britain. But in a country already well served by middle-market

newspapers, is there room for a radio station performing the same function?

Arguably, one reason why talk radio stations flourish in the United States is because the daily newspapers are relatively bland and there are no equivalents of the Daily Express, Daily Mail and Daily Mirror to provide outlets for lively, popular debate.

Yet Baxter believes the relative strength of the middle-market press in the UK can be turned to Talk Radio's advantage. "People who buy those papers have a high level of knowledge and interest about issues," he says. "That suggests Talk Radio could have a more interesting agenda than American stations."

There is already a growing recognition among national newspapers of the potential overlap between Talk Radio's audience and their readerships. When Today closed last month, most national mid-market papers rushed advertisements out on Talk Radio in an attempt to enlist Today's readers.

Talk Radio's own research shows its audience is closer in age range and socio-economic background to the "old" and more "downmarket" Daily Express than to the Daily Mail. Baxter believes that to pull Talk Radio closer to the Mail, it needs to attract a better class of studio guest.

The station has hired a string of well-known and highly experienced presenters including ITN anchorman Trevor McDonald, former Radio 1 DJs Simon Bates and Steve Wright, television chat show host Vanessa Feltz and veteran presenter James Whale. Its guests, however, are still mostly "B-list" celebrities.

Baxter wants to attract a better calibre of guest, although he recognises that with competition from the Radio



Travis Baxter: mid-market hopes

### NOVEMBER SALES BATTLE

Daily title	Average daily sales	Compared with Nov 94	%
The Sun	4,075,902	+22,628	+0.56
Daily Mirror	2,492,285	+10,927	+0.44
Daily Star	754,035	+11,428	+1.54
Today	582,236	-1,119	-0.19
Daily Express	1,252,911	-50,005	-3.94
Daily Mail	1,894,242	+155,169	+8.22
The Times	572,521	+88,374	+15.08
The Daily Telegraph	1,052,340	-67,832	-6.43
The Guardian	404,450	+577	+0.17
The Independent	253,777	+3,848	+1.52
Financial Times	305,918	+12,736	+4.14
Sunday title	Average daily sales	Compared with Nov 94	%
News of the World	4,820,848	-154,283	-3.23
The People	2,036,862	+4,048	+0.20
Sunday Mirror	2,478,146	-34,535	-1.38
Sunday Express	1,332,904	-86,948	-6.49
Mail on Sunday	2,020,483	+77,982	+4.01
The Sunday Times	1,281,045	-21,494	-1.65
The Observer	483,488	-85,177	-15.14
The Sunday Telegraph	677,114	+17,704	+2.61
Independent on Sunday	327,526	+12,880	+4.00

Source: ABC



The tabloids went overboard to lure Today readers

4's Today programme and Radio 5 Live, it may take years to achieve. All the same, to that end he is diversifying Talk Radio away from phone-ins and chat, and has earmarked £1 million to develop a range of new shows including quizzes, dramas and a "question time" show similar to Any Questions.

Having CLT, a well-known and well-capitalised shareholder, on board should boost Talk Radio's credibility, Baxter says. As well as running the highly successful RTL radio network in France, CLT runs the popular music station Atlantic 252, which broadcasts to the UK from Ireland, and has many other European radio, television and publishing interests.

Stranding is also attractive for sponsorship, such as the £1.5 million deal with Klenex to sponsor Sirton Bates's sentimental "Our Tune" slot. However, media analyst Lucy Broke says there is one vital ingredient of Talk Radio that it cannot change. The company's original owners bid an astronomical £3.8 million a year for its licence, which the station is now lumbered with.







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Harry Gibson goes  
Trainspotting in  
the West End

FOCUS 32,33

Aston University  
celebrates its  
100th birthday

SPORT 42-48

Giant all-rounder  
who is winning  
England over

TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 1995

## Three wise men warn Clarke to cut rates today

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE'S three remaining wise men have urged the Chancellor to cut interest rates today when he meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

The three economists, survivors among the original seven-man independent forecasting panel, said that if interest rates remain unchanged, the Government is most unlikely to hit its forecast of 3 per cent growth next year. They also agreed that the Government's target for underlying inflation of 2.5 per cent or lower by the end of this Parliament will probably be achieved, even if rates are cut.

The wise men backed up calls from industry for an immediate cut in interest rates. The Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors were joined yesterday by the British Chambers of Commerce. Robin Geldard, BCC President, said that the Budget last month did nothing to stimulate consumer demand and, with no real threat of inflation in the medium term, base rates should today fall by a point, from 6.75 per cent.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the Charterhouse Group, is a minority voice advising Mr Clarke to leave rates unchanged because he believes that there are glimmerings of consumer demand picking up without easier money.

But he conceded that today will see the closest decision since the monetary meeting in May, when the Chancellor defied Mr George and refused to raise interest rates again. "Mr Clarke was brave and right to stand up to the Governor in May. He will be more brave and just as right to defy the City now," Mr Jeffrey said.

British financial markets have been moving up steadily in anticipation of an early rate cut and will inevitably suffer if there is no decision today. Traders said that gilts, shares and sterling would all be knocked by a no-change decision because there is now such a widespread perception of how weak the economic recovery has become.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES		
FT-SE 100	3854.9	(+2.8)
Yield	3.85%	
FT-SE All share	1782.18	(+0.65)
Nikkei	16312.77	(+85.88)
Dow Jones	8177.09	(-7.23)
S&P Composite	618.39	(-1.13)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)
Yield	6.06%	(6.04%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	110%	(110%)
Future (Dec)	110%	(110%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5320*	(1.5335)
London	1.5281	(1.5341)
DM	2.2152	(2.2157)
FF	7.6640	(7.6485)
Sfr	1.7975	(1.7935)
Yen	165.70	(165.02)
£ Index	82.8	(82.8)
US DOLLAR		
London	1.4482*	(1.4444)
DM	5.0020*	(4.9865)
FF	1.7758*	(1.7699)
Yen	101.20*	(101.15)
£ Index	84.4	(84.1)
Tokyo close Yen	101.80	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 16-day (Feb)	\$17.20	(\$17.25)
Oil		
London close	\$888.40	(\$888.40)
* denotes midday trading price		

## Leeson takes gamble on prison term

BY ROBERT MILLER

NICK Leeson, the trader blamed for the £860 million collapse of Barings, took another big gamble yesterday when his lawyers filed a notice of appeal with the Singapore courts against the six-year sentence handed down on a single charge of cheating.

If the appeal goes ahead and fails, Leeson could have a further year added to his sentence of 6 1/2 years. The six months' sentence on another, lesser charge, of cheating is not part of the appeal.

Stephen Pollard of Kingsley Napley, Leeson's British lawyer, said that the notice did not necessarily mean that an appeal would go ahead. Mr Pollard will be advised by John Koh, Leeson's Singapore lawyer, after they have studied the written grounds of the decision handed down by Senior District Judge Richard Magnus, who is known locally as "Maximum Magnus" for his tough sentencing policy.

Leeson's legal team were privately shocked at the severity of the sentence handed out by Judge Magnus after the mitigation plea presented to the court was acknowledged by Lawrence Ang, the Deputy Public Prosecutor. The prosecution did not ask for a "deterrent" sentence to be passed on the 28-year-old trader and accepted that he had returned voluntarily, co-operated fully with Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department (CAD), which is still investigating the Barings crash, and apologised to all Singaporeans for having doubted that he would receive a fair trial. He also agreed to pay £70,000 towards the CAD's costs.

Sentencing him, Judge Magnus said: "The accused was in a position of trust. He had used that position to trade his honesty and integrity. The sentence must be sufficiently substantial to indicate the gravity of the offence to the public."

If the appeal proceeds, Leeson's legal advisers hope that, having made their point, the Singapore authorities may reduce the sentence. There is no time limit on Judge Magnus to file his written decision and before he does the CAD may have decided to press charges against some of the senior executives who were supposed to be monitoring Leeson.

## Post Office to help staff over mis-sold pensions

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE POST OFFICE, Britain's single biggest employer with 190,000 people on the payroll, has declared an amnesty to help thousands of employees who were mis-sold personal pension plans to join what is regarded as one of the more generous company pension schemes.

Since 1988, about 11,000 Post Office employees have been wrongly advised to leave the company scheme or not join in the first place. The Post Office has two pension schemes - the Post Office Staff Superannuation Scheme (Poss), which is now closed to new members, and the Post Office Pension Scheme (Pops), open to all new permanent staff. The combined assets of the two schemes are £10.5 billion and the combined membership is 370,000.

The rules governing these schemes do not normally allow non-member employees to rejoin after a specified time and many of the 11,000 are past the age and time limit. Now the Post Office has signalled that any of these employees can rejoin or become a member of the company scheme for the first time provided they declare their intention to do so by June 30 next year.

Some of the employees are currently seeking compensation payments from the personal pension providers who mis-sold the plans. These claims could take up to a year or even longer to settle. But under the special deal, employees who register their intentions during the amnesty period will be allowed to join Pops.

Dermot Conner, head of pensions policy at the Post Office, said: "As an employer with a real concern for our people, we want everyone who is eligible to have the opportunity to come under the secure umbrella of a Post Office pension scheme for their future pension and retirement needs."

He added: "We know many employees are unhappy about the private pension arrangements they have made after the publicity over the mis-selling of some personal pensions. The amnesty shows the Post Office takes very seriously its employees' concerns."



David Morris, chairman Northern Electric, left, with Tony Hadfield, chief executive

## Northern Electric earns City praise

BY ERIC REGULY

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, the regional electricity company that geared itself to the hit to fend off a hostile takeover bid, earned kudos from the City by announcing results at the top end of analysts' forecasts and faster than expected cost cutting.

The company also said that tighter price controls imposed by Ofwat, the electricity regulator, will reduce the bills of its 1.4 million customers by an average of £25 over the next five years. Customers will also receive a discount of £50 in early 1996 from the National Grid flotation.

Northern reported a pre-tax profit of £58.7 million in the half year to September, down £4.7 million from the year before, on turnover that fell £61 million to £429.8 million. The lower figures were due largely to the price controls which went into effect in April.

Analysts had expected pre-tax profits of £49 million to £65 million. Operating profits, however, rose 7.1 per cent to £36.9 million because of greater savings from job losses and lower restructuring costs. Earnings per share, excluding the capital gains on the sale of Northern's share in the Grid and the one-off costs associated with the package offered to shareholders in defence against Trafalgar House's bid, increased from 43.8p to 45.7p.

The interim dividend, to be paid on February 19, rises 7 per cent to 12p. A second special dividend of 56.5p is due on the same date. Northern shares rose 7p to 590p after the release of the results, then slipped to finished unchanged. David Morris, chairman, said the bulk of the cost-cutting effort has been finished.

## ScotPower to shed 350 jobs at Manweb

SCOTTISHPOWER said it will eliminate 350 jobs over the next year at Manweb, the regional electricity company it bought for £1.1 billion in October after a takeover battle (Eric Reguly writes).

ScotPower hinted that more redundancies were possible in the future. Most of the jobs losses, which are equivalent to 11 per cent of Manweb's workforce of 3,300, are disappearing from the company's head office in Chester.

The building will eventually be closed, with the remaining employees moving to a smaller site. The job reduction comes on top of the 1,000 redundancies announced by Manweb earlier this year as part of streamlining plans. Ian Robinson, ScotPower's chief executive, said: "We thought it was important to give our employees an early indication of the transition team's findings." More information on the integration plans will be released in mid-January.

Ian McCartney, the Shadow Employment Minister, said the latest Manweb job losses raised the total losses in the utility sector to 42,000 since 1990. Mr McCartney said yesterday: "These job cuts are to pay for the cost of ScotPower's takeover of Manweb, and are nothing to do with improving customer service or efficiency."

### Land disposal

British Land, the property group that will soon take control of the Broadgate office complex in the City, has plans to sell property worth more than £100 million. Disposals are intended to offset the increased borrowings expected to arise on the consolidation of some £800 million of debt relating to Broadgate Properties.

### Stepping down

Roger Holland, chairman of Cray Electronics, the troubled data communications company, has stepped down and has been replaced by his newly appointed deputy, Alec Daly.

## Granada shareholders back bid for Forte

BY ERIC REGULY



Gerry Robinson, centre, with Henry Staunton, left, and Charles Allen

GRANADA yesterday received approval from its shareholders to go ahead with its £3.3 billion hostile offer for Forte and outlined plans to overhaul Forte's budget hotels if the takeover succeeds.

Shareholders representing 40 per cent of Granada's share capital exercised their vote. Only 0.4 per cent of shares went against the resolution. Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, said he would expand the 112-hotel Travelodge chain in the UK and make it the "clear market leader in budget accommodation". He said he would "improve price and yield", meaning he would raise prices, and add features to the rooms such as

BSkyB satellite TV services. Granada owns 10.8 per cent of BSkyB. Granada has said it "is minded" to sell the 490 Travelodge hotels in the US, but is still evaluating the business. Forte placed the US chain on the market in September, well before Granada launched its bid. The US Travelodge hotels are said to be valued at just under £100 million.

It wants to keep the British Travelodge chain and manage it through a joint venture set up by Forte's hotels and restaurants companies. Granada also said it would merge the Crest and Posthouse hotel chains in Britain and emphasise Posthouse "as the leading mid-range business hotel". Some of the White Hart and Heritage hotels would be transferred into the Posthouse family. Forte's luxury Grand and Meriden chains would be merged.

Granada, whose finance director is Henry Staunton and chief operating officer Charles Allen, said it would need the Council of Forte on Friday to discuss its role during the takeover attempt and what function it would have if the takeover succeeds. The Council owns less than 1 per cent of Forte shares but has just over 50 per cent of its voting rights.

Channel launch, page 26  
Pennington, page 27

\*The right is reserved to revise and/or increase and/or extend the Offers if a competitive situation (as determined by the Panel) arises or otherwise with the consent of the Panel. If on 18th December 1995 the Ordinary Offer is unconditional as to acceptances each of the Offers will remain open for acceptance for not less than 14 days after that date.



# Chatset split sours Lloyd's backing

of brokerage income. "They do need the Lloyd's market," said Mr. Surge.

Mr. Rew feared Lloyd's may be prepared to push ahead with Equitas even without agreement on the settlement to names. Much of the savings Equitas will offer will come from a higher level of investment income. Chatter's forecast of future losses also assumes a much higher level of so-far unreported pollution claims, and higher costs from inflation and legal expenses.

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□ Wise men are right this time □ Shareholders back Robinson □ C&G takes fight with elderly to appeal

## Cut interest rates now

□ THE time has come. Only three people needed to agree for the Chancellor's wise men to sign a joint letter to *The Times* urging interest rate cuts (page 19). Had there been thirty, however, few would have disdained the round robin.

The economy has been dull for months. It shows no sign of returning confidence. Nor will there be a significant boost to spending before the middle classes notice next spring's tax cuts, before pensioners blow their building society takeover bribes, or before motor employers concede huge pay rises. Don't wait for it.

The City decided before the Budget that the interest rate cycle had turned. Otherwise, the FTSE 100 share index would be below 3,600. Sterling and gilt-edged prices have already factored in a cut in base rates. The money market already discounts a quarter point. But so far, the trend has not officially turned. Ken may have been canny enough to resist a summer rate rise, but Eddie still appears steadfast against making any cuts until the ever-receding "medium term".

The money market's quarter point might be a sensible start, though there seems no particular reason why rates should rise in half points but fall only in quarters. It might even be sen-

sible, after this morning's monthly monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor, to give the Bundesbank a chance to steal the show tomorrow before springing into action. But there is not much point in delaying any further.

Even the foreign exchanges and the gilt-edged market, the financial canaries testing for inflationary poison gas, might react badly if a cut was delayed for long. Lack of action to perk up the economy would worsen prospects for state finances, their main short-term worry, and might incite panic measures later.

Messrs Congdon, Davies and Minford, though not a natural policy trio, agree as forecasters. They do not believe that the economy will grow by 3 per cent next year, as the Chancellor has forecast, unless interest rates are cut. And they know, as the financial markets know, that the Budget projections of falling state borrowing depend on achieving that rate of growth. The Bank of England, like many outside forecasters, does not appear to expect the economy to

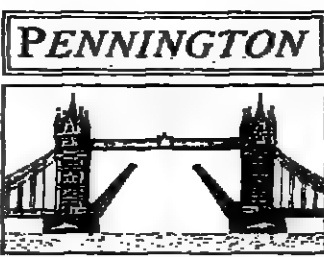
grow so fast. So Eddie George might not see the need for a cut.

There is a more compelling argument. The economy is dull because confidence is low, in boardrooms as much as estate agencies. People do not think recovery will turn into steady growth, because interest rates will be raised to choke expansion. That is why Budget tax cuts would carry little clout in people's spending decisions.

Only by cutting rates before stagnation turns into recession can the Treasury convince people that low inflation and steady growth are compatible. There is no reason to wait.

### Granada gets a go-ahead

□ THE threat of flying paper would inevitably have caused a reaction in Granada's share price in the wake of its £3.3 billion Forté foray. But the extent of the reversal — the shares have fallen from 697p to 637p, after touching 634p — has been widely attributed to institutional anxiety over the shape of the House that



Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, is intent on building.

In the event, Robinson has duly received planning permission. Votes at yesterday's EGM in favour of Conglomerate House — not quite the way the resolution was worded — amounted to close on 40 per cent. This may appear underwhelming. Unfortunately for Forté's camp the near-60 per cent hole would appear to reflect shareholder voting apathy, rather than rebellion. Votes against Mr Robinson's tilt at Forté amounted to 0.4 per cent, while official abstentions totalled just 0.2 per cent. Granada was quick to make the most of this. Alex Bernstein, the outgoing chair-

man, let it be known that Granada was "delighted by the tremendous support" from shareholders. He also emphasised that the self-same shareholders "clearly share our view that Forté is a great opportunity for Granada."

Robinson, for his part, worked hard at attempting to erase the word conglomerate from his blueprint. Not for the first time he argued that Forté is not an up-market hotel combine. The nucleus of the company, according to Robinson, comprises mid-market hotels and roadside catering. If you perceive this, so the argument goes, you perceive the synergy. Forté's shareholders will be pleased to learn that the company is not without good managers: they merely lack the "strategic direction" that Mr Robinson and his colleagues would bring to the party.

Should Granada succeed in its quest it would emerge with a leading market position in three cash generation businesses: television, rental and catering and hotels.

Forté's shares, at 337½p, are registering a 14½p premium over

Granada's terms. What the City expects, in the not too distant future, is Forté's analysis of Granada.

### Postponing justice

□ SOME had thought that the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society would be subsumed in the maw of Lloyds Bank never to be seen as a separate entity again. But yesterday the former society that became part of the bank in August showed its independent fighting spirit, possibly to the annoyance of its new owner. C&G, which in its glory days caused the Treasury to change its policy on interest rates, is now tangling with hundreds of elderly investors. Its new owner wishes it was shot of the whole sorry episode.

Last month the investors were given the go-ahead to take part in a joint multi-million pound legal action against the C&G and up to nine other societies.

But the C&G is not content to let the British judicial system decide whether compensation

should be paid to 200 elderly people who were mis-sold schemes which cashed in part of the value of their homes and put it into risky investment bonds. It will go to the Court of Appeal to challenge their right to join together with the help of the Investors Compensation Scheme to pursue thousands of pounds in debts.

The total amount involved is not large but to the individuals concerned it is a worrisome burden in the later years of their lives. The C&G seems happy to make lawyers rich rather than allow a quick and honourable settlement. It is worried about the legal niceties of whether the ICS should be acting for investors when any right-minded person cannot doubt that they need help and should get it if this is ever to be resolved.

### Withering away

□ STEPHEN LITTLECHILD has no option but to abandon "voluntary" price controls for power generators, which depended on his threat to refer them to the monopolies commission — a threat now fairly empty. The professor can draw satisfaction from his waning power. It shows he has succeeded in his main aim: making the market competitive. Whether that will keep prices down is another matter.

## Asset sale by British Land to raise £100m

By CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH LAND, the property group that will soon take control of the Broadgate office complex in the City, has plans to sell property worth more than £100 million.

Disposals are intended to offset the increased gearing expected to arise on the consolidation of some £800 million of borrowings relating to Broadgate Properties.

The company is also considering the sale of certain of the Broadgate assets to reduce gearing which is likely to rise

to well over 100 per cent. British Land, which yesterday announced a 5 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £24.9 million, said it expected to raise a new £820 million bank facility to refinance the Broadgate debt.

John Weston Smith, finance director, said that five-year money was looking very attractive.

Mr Weston Smith confirmed that British Land expected to sell properties and already had more than £100 million of property in the hands of solicitors.

The company expects to refinance £700 million using a range of maturities and to raise a further £120 million to fund the purchase of the half share of Broadgate which is still owned by the receivers of Roschaugh.

The property group has boosted its net rental income by 36 per cent to £90 million in the half year to September.

A large part of the increase relates to acquisitions as well as fixed rental uplifts relating to British Land's portfolio of food retail superstores.

The property group is currently raising £222 million in a placing and open offer to shareholders which is to be used to finance the purchase of seven Tesco superstores, including the 12.2 acre site at Brent Park in Neasden, north-west London, where a yield on acquisition of 7 per cent is expected to rise to 9.4 per cent on review.

After the Tesco deal, more than a fifth of the company's rent roll will be subject to guaranteed uplifts, with 80 per cent of the properties in the portfolio acquired within the last seven years.

The company is raising the interim dividend from 2.64p to 2.78p after earnings of 3.7p (3.6p).

Tempos, page 28



Reins of power: Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman of Vaux, the Sunderland brewer, takes charge of one of the company's horse-drawn drays

## Vaux shares slide after poor pub results

Vaux, the Sunderland brewer, is facing increasing City criticism after more disappointing results from its tenanted pubs in the North-East (Paul Durman writes).

The volume of beer sold through Vaux's tied pubs fell 6.3 per cent, and profits from tenancies fell 9 per cent to £14.6 million. A strong performance from Swallow Hotels helped Vaux to

raise group pre-tax profits for the year 9 per cent to £31.8 million, but the shares slipped 12p to 264p on negative remarks on the pub trade from Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman. Some analysts believe Vaux should sell off many of its smaller, tenanted pubs, and shed its brewing and nursing home businesses.

Sir Paul blamed weak pub sales on

the National Lottery, the trend towards drinking at home and a massive bootlegging problem. "They reckon 100 vans a day are going into Newcastle. And people in the North East really are contributing to new opera houses in London in the most amazing way."

Vaux wrote down the value of its pub estate by £12.1 million. Swallow

Hotels raised profits 25 per cent to £19.7 million. Profits from nursing homes fell from £5.4 million to £4.7 million, partly because of delays caused by local authorities taking control of funding for nursing care. A final dividend of 6.75p increased the total by 3.6 per cent to 10.2p. Earnings per share rose 8.7 per cent to 17.9p. Tempos, page 28

### Schneider given deadline

By A CORRESPONDENT

A US bankruptcy judge yesterday gave lawyers for Juergen Schneider, the fallen German real estate tycoon, ten days to prepare arguments on a petition by German authorities.

The ruling marked the latest step in a quest by a German receiver, who was appointed to liquidate Herr Schneider's estate, to interview him and his wife to determine if they have assets and creditors in the US. Judge Robert Mark ordered Michael Lacher, Herr Schneider's attorney, to file arguments by December 22.

Herr Schneider, 61, and his wife Claudia, 50, have been in jail in Miami since May as Germany's request to extradite the couple to face fraud charges works its way through the US court system. He disappeared in April 1994 but was arrested after more than a year.

## Amec adviser quits after panel censure

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE bid battle for Amec, the UK construction company, was plunged into further controversy yesterday as Financial Dynamics, Amec's public relations adviser, quit after the Takeover Panel took the unusual step of censuring it for a breach of the takeover code.

The panel decided that Financial Dynamics had failed to take sufficient care in its discussions with analysts and that information which was not publicly available, including a profits forecast for 1996, had been supplied to an

unnamed securities firm. Amec responded by announcing it would appoint Dewe Rogerson as its new adviser. Financial Dynamics said it fully understood the obligation to meet all takeover rules and acknowledged the panel's ruling.

Meanwhile, Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering company, which has made a £360 million bid for Amec, announced yesterday it had increased its stake by 2.4 per cent, giving it a total holding of 22.6 per cent in Amec.

## Asda accused of Scrooge-like attitude on Christmas bonus



Norman: under attack

ASDA, the supermarket group where Archie Norman, the chief executive, is due to unveil profits tomorrow, has been accused of penny-pinching by refusing to pay a Christmas bonus to staff who have taken time off.

The company is giving £20 worth of Asda vouchers to staff who work more than 15 hours a week and £10 worth to workers employed for less than 15 hours a week. But if staff have taken time off in the past six months, including women on maternity leave, they will not receive the bonus.

The GMB general union, which represents thousands of Asda workers, said staff deserved the bonus for their contribution to profits. Donna Covey, national officer, said: "This is the worst case of penny-pinching I have seen."

The GMB said it was considering taking action for possible discrimination against women who took maternity leave. Asda, which is expected to announce increased half-year profits of more than £130 million, said the idea of linking the bonus to attendance came from staff.

## City bank staff ready for bonus bonanza

By PATRICIA TEHAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOLDMAN SACHS and Morgan Stanley announced bonus payments yesterday, as investment bank staff in the City braced themselves for a return to a bonus bonanza.

At Goldmans, most of its 1,500 UK-based staff received payments ranging from 10 per cent to 80 per cent of base salaries. In London, 20 high-performing staff were told their bonuses will be in the region of \$1 million, while the 33 partners will have similar amounts credited to interest-bearing "capital accounts" not redeemable until retirement.

The return to chunky bonuses reflects improvements in equity and, more particularly, bond markets. It also reflects the success Goldman and other US investment banks have had in winning corporate finance mandates from UK competitors.

Administrative and support staff received 20 per cent of their basic pay, compared with 8 per cent last year and 30 per cent in 1993, the City's bumper year for bonuses.

Last week, Jon Corzine, chairman of Goldman, said in a staff memo that the bonuses would reflect "a successful 1995, with earnings returning to a very solid level. Bonus awards should and do recognise your collective efforts." He also emphasised Goldman's wish to "move the firm toward a steeper incentive curve for individuals", while still encouraging teamwork.

At Morgan Stanley bonuses paid to 2,000 London-based staff were also higher than last year, but a spokeswoman said that they had not returned to 1993 levels. She said the increases reflected improved market conditions, the upturn in the industry and "the tremendous effort made by all our people this past year".

Morgan Stanley usually pays half of its net revenues in staff compensation. Revenues for the year will be announced early next year. It is also making a special payment equivalent to one week's base salary to administrative staff, in addition to any profit-sharing arrangements that will be announced next year.

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# Confidence slips as hopes fade for interest rate cut

THE confidence the market had been displaying about a possible cut in interest rates after today's meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, appeared to be fading fast last night.

The FT-SE 100 index, which enjoyed an encouraging early mark-up, was looking a pale shadow by the close. It achieved an early lead of 16 points, helped by another positive performance overnight on Wall Street where oil stocks had been chased higher on the back of a stronger crude price. But it finished just 2.8 up at 3,654.9 after being undermined by the stronger-than-expected US Producer Price index.

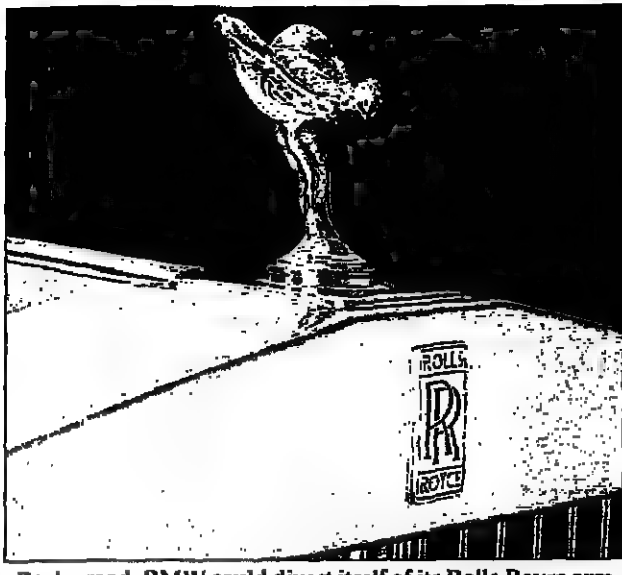
Once again dealers reported little genuine retail demand and by the close only 675 million shares had changed hands. Institutional investors are in no rush to open fresh positions ahead of today's monthly economic strategy meeting and tomorrow's Bundesbank meeting. Nor have they forgotten this week's Retail Price Index.

Rexam enjoyed a much-needed rally with a rise of 9p to 337p. There is talk that the group, which has been a weak market of late, may find itself on the receiving end of a bid from Alusuisse, the Swiss aluminium producer, which is said to be anxious to diversify into other less cyclical areas. Rexam might just fit the bill.

British Steel retreated 3p to 158p after being hit by a welter of cautious comments from brokers. James Capel, Kleinwort Benson and Robert Fleming were all reckoned to have been sellers yesterday. SBC Warburg says the shares should be sold down to 140p. But British Aerospace recovered after recent nervousness with a rise of 1p to 789p as the bargain-hunters made their presence felt.

Pearson rose 7p to 667p. The group meets brokers at 11am to give them a rundown of proposed board changes and management restructuring. There has been talk of a possible bid for Pearson.

But fading bid hopes left Vickers, the tanks to luxury motor car group, 8p lower at 274p. GKN, 6p off at 797p, has denied claims that it wants to bid for Vickers, but there is also talk that BMW would like to take out its Rolls-Royce motor car arm and add its



Rocky road: BMW could divest itself of its Rolls-Royce arm

famous marque to Rover. Former takeover target Northern Electric marked time at 583p after weighing in with half-year figures in line with City expectations. Shareholders were rewarded with a 7 per cent increase in the half-year payout to 12p with the group confirming plans to pay 39.3p for the full year and a special payment of 50.5p. The

Cadbury Schweppes ended lower, 2p off at 548p, along with the other shareholders of Camelot, the National Lottery operator. Cadbury also had to contend with a downgrading from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which is believed to have lopped £10 million from its current-year estimate.

group says it plans to cut customers' bills by £215 during the next five years. Brokers say that with a strong defence in place, another bid for Northern appears remote. Scottish Power has already begun wielding the axe following its recent takeover of Manweb. It is losing 350 jobs during the next year, in addition to the 1,000 jobs shed by Manweb. Scottish Power

suggested Enterprise Oil, up 10p at 365p, might be interested in making an offer. Gail's asset value is estimated to be around 75p a share. Details of Waste Management International's profits warning and substantial write-off left its shares nursing a fall of 23p at 322p. It said that profits in the fourth quarter will fall short of estimates and that it intends to write-off £123

million relating to restructuring charges. The group also plans to shed 300 jobs. The news that British Vita is about to hit the acquisition trail lifted the shares 14p to 216p. The group says trading is no worse than expected, which came as a relief also to the market.

It looks as if Kvaerner, the Norwegian group, has been adding to its stake in Amec, unchanged at 100p. SBC Warburg has bought a further 4.9 million shares, lifting its total holding to 45.7 million, or 22.56 per cent.

An increase of almost one-third in full-year pre-tax profits failed to benefit Stakis, the casinos and hotels operator, which finished 2p higher at 79p. The group has set aside an extra £33.4 million for its hotels and to build new casinos. Brokers are looking for £32 million in the current year. Vaux, the brewer and nursing homes group, slumped 12p to 252p after full-year figures failed to live up to brokers' expectations. They expressed disappointment with the performance of the hotels and brewing operations.

Alba enjoyed a mark-up of 15p to 282p after meeting Henderson Crosthwaite for dinner on Monday. The company is apparently enjoying strong sales growth. GILT EDGED: A stronger than expected set of US Producer Prices wiped out early gains. Brokers say that the marketplace appears evenly divided about the prospect of a cut in interest rates following today's meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England. If that fails to produce a result there is always tomorrow's meeting of the Bundesbank. But a failure by the Germans to cut interest rates could result in a shake-out at the short end of the market.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt firmed three ticks to £110.32 in thin trading that saw just 29,000 contracts completed.

Conventional issues managed to regain some poise towards the close with benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 one-sixteenth better at £102.1/16, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 closed unchanged at £104.4.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares remained under pressure at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 7.23 points to 5177.09.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	
Dow Jones	5177.09 (-7.23)
S&P Composite	618.39 (-1.13)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	19312.77 (-85.99)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	9927.79 (-92.62)
Amsterdam	
EOE Index	479.04 (-0.23)
Sydney	
DAX	2215.1 (-0.21)
Frankfurt	
DAX	2289.77 (-16.99)
Singapore	
Straits	2154.27 (+0.38)
Brussels	
General	3262.07 (+100.31)
Paris	
CAC-40	1849.94 (-0.64)
Zurich	
SIX Gen	710.40 (+3.90)

London:	
FT 100	3654.9 (-2.8)
FT 100	3654.9 (-2.8)
FT 100	3654.9 (-2.8)
FT 100	3654.9 (-2.8)
FT 100	3654.9 (-2.8)
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FT 100	3654.9 (-2.8)

## RECENT ISSUES

Abstract HI Inc (C100)	98
Arion Pros	9
BZV Equis Teco	301
Benfield & Rea	103
CMG (290)	336
Casta Converters Int'l	26
Corporation (129)	149
Cox Insurance	110
East Surrey NV	448
Finsbury Tech (100)	102
Gardiner (1)	130
Gearhise Group (200)	203
Jasmin	85
London Town	80
Martin Currie Jp	97
Martin Currie Jp	39
National Grid (204)	211
Peptide Therapies (200)	232
Pet City	360
Revelation Pice	100
Treadwell	40
Vero Group	270
Wilmington	62

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leds n/p (34)	7
Roxbury n/p (3)	1
TBI n/p (50)	3
The TV Corp n/p (91)	6

## MAJOR CHANGES

Rises:	
Coal Pet	80p (-21p)
Alia	216p (-14p)
Medeva	282p (-16p)
Enterprise	265p (-11p)
Regent Inns	817p (-11p)
Br Aerospace	788p (-11p)
Stake	784p (-11p)
Falls:	
Waste Mgt Int'l	323p (-23p)
Airflow Stream	265p (-18p)
Andrew Sykes	259p (-13p)
Vaux Group	252p (-12p)
Pharmark	234p (-11p)
David Smith	216p (-11p)
Land	389p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 34

## TEMPUS

# Bears' picnic at Broadgate

THERE is a bear lurking somewhere in the Broadgate Centre near Liverpool Street station and yesterday it came out of hiding and gave British Land a not very friendly squeeze. After yesterday's dip, the shares stood at 368p, a small but important discount to British Land's £222 million open offer, priced at 370p. The property group's shares have been falling with the rest of the property sector for many months, along with expectations of rising yields and bearish sentiment over rents. British Land has suffered with the rest of the property leaders but its fall has been exacerbated by high gearing. The debt to equity ratio will exceed 130 per cent after consolidating Broadgate.

Gearing is a mixed blessing for property companies: it accentuates both the rise in fall in asset values. There are good reasons to be confident about British Land's portfolio which

boasts assets of which over a fifth benefit from fixed rental uplifts. Yesterday, those assets threw up much of the rental growth in the half-year figures but despite those gains earnings per share fell and the dilution can be blamed on British Land's interest charge. While net rents were up 35 per cent, the property group's bill for borrowing was up 44 per cent over the previous year.

British Land has admitted that the current share issue will dilute net asset value but points out that a 1 per cent uplift in the portfolio will wipe out any dilution in NAV. However, those investors who sold British Land yesterday may be concerned as much about earnings dilution. In the half year, revenue earnings fell 9 per cent, a decline that is not critical but was enough to wake the Broadgate bear.

## Cray

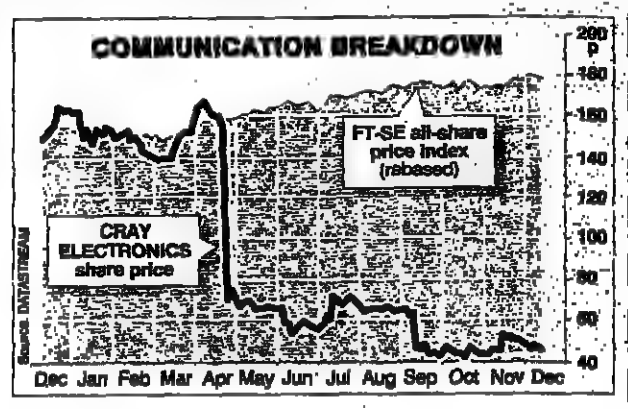
THERE was little in Cray's figures to encourage investors yesterday, and the message from the board gave no indication that the shares are anything but fairly valued after months of drift and despond. Cray's share price halved after a profit warning in April, and in July the company announced that profits of £26 million in 1994 had been reduced to almost nil, but the management then announced changes aimed at restoring margins: reducing product lines and the outsourcing of manufacturing. However, on the strength of yesterday's figures, recovery will be slow.

Cray operates in a sub-sector of the electronics market that is dominated by US giants, and the British minority finds it difficult to keep

up. The industry is consolidating around five American players, and the carve-up leaves little room for others to compete effectively.

Cray should be able to reduce the deficit in the second half with a move into profit of about £7.5 million in the next financial year, suggesting a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 14. Excluding

Data Communications, Cray is in reasonable shape and generating profitable returns, but without signs that the restructuring of the core business has put it back on track, the shares will remain speculative. The new management believes that recovery will start this year, but its confidence will need the backing of profits.



## Stakis

IF yesterday's slip in the shares had anything to do with doubts about the rapid expansion of Stakis, it cannot be due to yesterday's figures. Stakis boasts some of the best provincial hotel occupancy figures in the industry. Average occupancy rates of 72 per cent for provincial hotels over the past year are at the top of the range hotels and probably well ahead of Forte although the latter has been too coy to release these statistics.

The Forte bid battle has kept hotel shares bubbling but Stakis has been able to replace the hot air with something more substantial, namely growth in room rates, yield and margin.

The profits fall from casinos was expected and reflects a hot summer and the effect of the National Lottery, although Stakis, unlike some others in the gaming industry, is too sensible to lead the blame on the Government.

Plans to invest another £23 million in hotels in the current year will be welcomed by investors as the occupancy gains in the current year should be followed by improvements in both room rates and yield. Tax, however, remains a drag on the company's growth; the rate is likely to increase from less than 10 per cent to 15 per cent by 1997, offsetting some of the advance in earnings.

Vaux VAUX chairman Sir Paul Nicholson is fond of referring to his business as "snoots and booze", the snoots being Swallow Hotels and St Andrews Nursing Homes, the booze the company's pubs and brewery.

The mix has served the company well in the past but the evidence from yesterday's disappointing results is that investors can derive satisfaction from neither. On the surface, the hotel results look strong. Profits were at an all-

time high, but if you compare the breakdown of the figures with rival Stakis, Vaux lags behind. Occupancy levels were over 4 per cent lower while the rate per room was £1.50 less. Growth prospects look poor, with the City anticipating that the division will reach cyclical maturity in just two years.

The booze side again performed badly. The company's tenant pub operations continue to feel the effects of underinvestment while brewing has suffered more than its rivals. Only the managed pubs put up a respectable showing with profits up 12 per cent. Despite the management optimism, the company lacks the means to turn things around. There was a cash outflow for the second year running and dividend cover is weak at 1.9 times. Even at a discount to the sector, and with a price barely above its book value, its probably best to lay off Vaux.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

## COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	
Dec	Mar
COCA	
Dec	1022-1020
Mar	1022-1020
COCA	
Dec	1022-1020
Mar	1022-1020

ROBUSTA COFFEES	
Dec	Mar
Dec	1725-1715
Mar	1715-1705
COFFEE	
Dec	1715-1705
Mar	1705-1695

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)	
Dec	Mar
Dec	307.5-306.1
Mar	306.1-304.7
COFFEE	
Dec	306.1-304.7
Mar	304.7-303.3

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

LIFE OPTIONS	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

## WHEAT

Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

POTATO	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

RUBBER	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Three Month Sterling	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Three Month Eurodollar	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Three Month ECU	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Japanese Govt Bond	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

## MONEY RATES (%)

Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Prime Bank Loans (Days)	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Sterling Money Rates	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Local Authority Bonds	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Sterling CDs	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

## DOLLAR RATES

Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Other Sterling	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

FT-SE VOLUMES	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Mkt Rates for Dec 12	
Dec	Mar
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49
COFFEE	
Dec	117.49-117.49
Mar	117.49-117.49

Amer Genl Corp	23 1/2	22 1/2	Gen Ex
Amer Home Pr	46	45 1/2	Gen El
Amer Indl	91 1/4	91 1/4	Gen M
Amer Stores	27 1/2	26 1/2	Gen M
Amer Standard	31 1/2	30 1/2	Gen R
Amerluch	59 1/2	57 1/2	Gen S
Amoco	71 1/2	71 1/2	Genul
Amheuser-Busch	66 1/2	67	Georgi
Amhous-Koch	28 1/2		



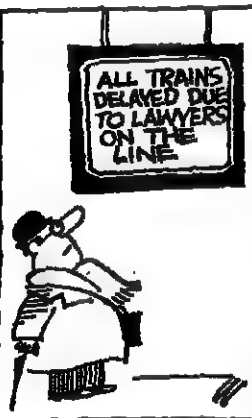
## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### And then there were three

CHRISTMAS must just be around the corner — there are only three wise men left to advise the Chancellor. As the letter in *The Times* today from Messrs Tim Congdon, Gavyn Davies and Patrick Minford reminds us, Kenneth Clarke is down to his last three, having now lost four of those handed on by Norman Lamont. What is more, he does not seem to care. Andrew Sentance, one of the originals, ruled himself out nearly two years ago when he left the Confederation of British Industry but has not been replaced. And the Chancellor does not seem to be hurrying over the list of suggestions from Alan Budd, the Treasury's chief economic adviser, Wynne Godley, the civilised wild man of Cambridge, and David Currie, from the Treasury's London Business School preparatory school, dropped out on a rota basis after the pre-Budget forecasts and Andrew Britton has quit forecasting at the National Institute to do a big report on unemployment. Even their leaving party has been put off until the new year because the Chancellor is too busy. They might then be able to shake hands with successors, who could include Kate Barker of the Confederation of British Industry, "Professor" Roger Bootle or Bill Martin from the City and, yes, that man Sentance again. He has now taken over as head of the London Business School Forecasting Centre.

### Hatchet man

RICHARD WEBB, the BZW man who helped Berdys to sort out the problems in its American operation but wanted to return to the UK, has been found a job. The position of deputy chief executive of European retail banking has been created for him, and he will start the new role early next year. Mr Webb's last job involved assisting Barclays in deciding which bits of the American business to keep and which to dispose of. Could this new role involve more of the same?



### Keeping busy

SIR BRIAN SHAW is retiring as chairman of ANZ Grindlays Bank this month after eight years in the job and 16 years as a director. He will concentrate on his new portfolio of jobs, which include being chairman of the Automobile Association and being chairman of the Port of London Authority. Don Mercer, his deputy, takes over as chairman next month.

### Inside job

WHO needs to rob banks when you can go straight to the source of all cash itself — the Mint, or the Bureau of Engraving and Printing as it is quaintly known in the United States. Someone has just made off with \$20,000 in cracking new notes, and that is after \$40,000 went walkabout two weeks ago. The Treasury Department — currently locked in a battle in Congress to cut the United States budget deficit — is investigating this new drain on the national resources. It had better move fast before there is a repeat of the \$1.6 million theft from the Bureau 18 months ago by one of its own employees.

# Jobless level is here to stay despite what the figures say

Experts believe that unemployment will stick at about the two million mark, writes Philip Bassett

THE Government's announcement this morning of the latest unemployment figures will be keenly examined not only to see how many people are now out of work and claiming benefit, but whether the small rise in unemployment reported last month has disappeared. Whitehall officials are so confident that last month's increase of 200 in seasonally-adjusted claimant unemployment will have gone from the records that they went so far as to describe them as "meaningless". They say that high seasonal factors tend to distort the figures for January, July and October, the first involving temporary Christmas workers, the last two students.

While seasonal adjustment of figures to remove such distortions leaves them only as good as the statistical process which carries it out, officials are still working on improvements to the current computer format — such an expected flip to last month's figures does have a recent precedent. A small rise in unemployment in July became a small fall of 200 when the seasonal information drawn from the past year has on its own accounted for more than a third of the total fall in UK unemployment.

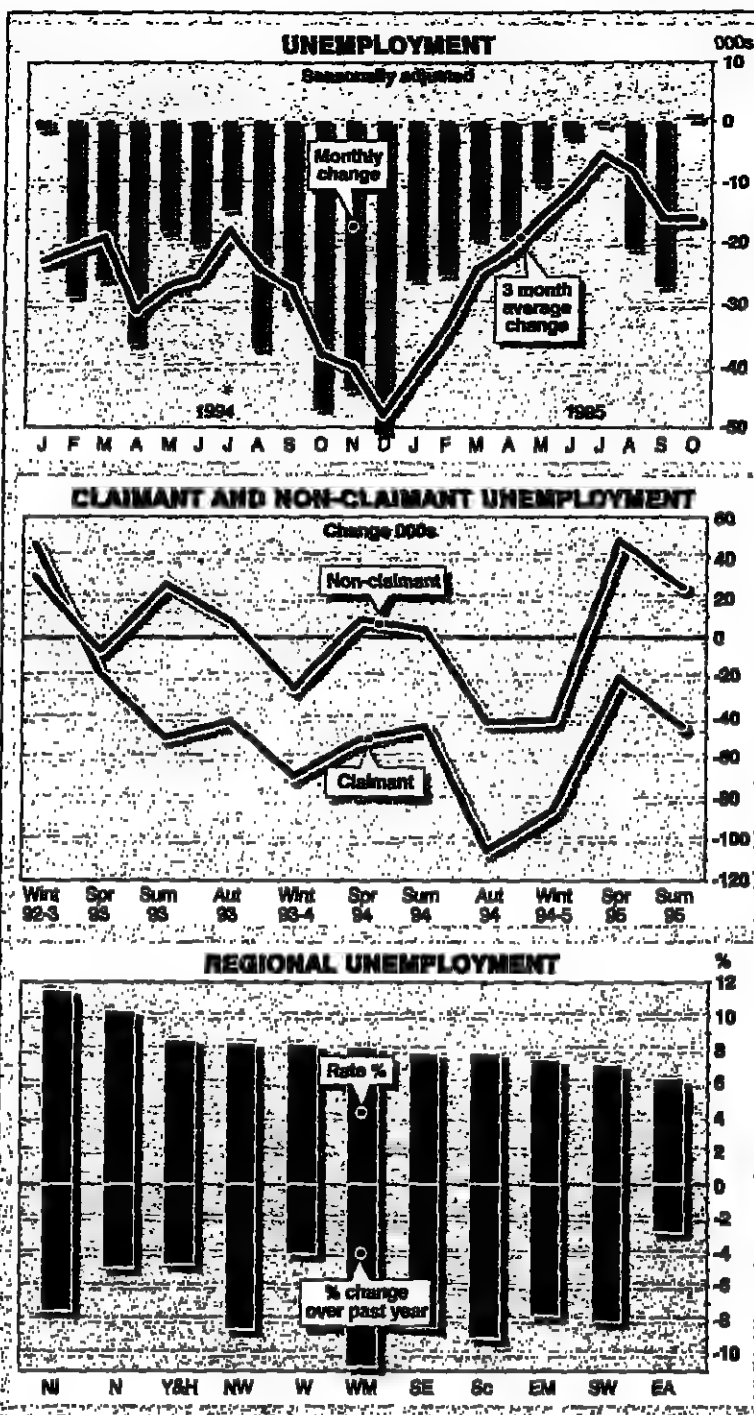
But behind all this statistical juggling, what is happening to unemployment now? Is the slowdown in Britain's economy, which business fears may become a downturn, hitting the long fall in unemployment? The latter, after suitable seasonal readjustments, has continued unbroken since December 1992. Unemployment is now either on a very modest downward trend, or we are on a plateau," says Dr John Philpott, director of the Independent Employment Policy Institute, "and a plateau is consistent with all the other data on the economy".

Unemployment is still a vital factor in calculating the strength of the economy. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will have the latest figures in front of them tomorrow, together with the new retail sales figures and yesterday's marginally-improved producer price numbers, when they meet to examine whether to cut interest rates.

Equally, unemployment is still an emotive issue for the public. Despite the claim by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, that job insecurity is a "state of mind", the most recent Mori opinion poll, published on the day of Mr Clarke's Budget, put it as by far the most important issue facing Britain. It was cited by 52 per cent of those polled, well ahead of the National Health Service at 39 per cent, and of the economy itself, which was in fifth place with 19 per cent.

Whitehall statisticians still see the trend in unemployment as falling at between 10,000 and 15,000 a month. So-called City "forecasts" of each month's change in the figures do little more than to ape such thinking, and still manage usually to get it wholly incorrect. Last month's 200 rise, for instance, came against City "expectations" of a 10,000 drop. For what little it is worth, the market prediction is for a 5,000 fall tomorrow.

The accompanying graphic shows



what has been happening to unemployment around Britain, with above average falls in the West Midlands, Scotland, the North West and the South East, where the 65,400 drop over the past year has on its own accounted for more than a third of the total fall in UK unemployment.

The most useful guide is probably to set, as the main chart does, the monthly changes in unemployment against the three-month trend. That seems to indicate a steady decline in the fall in unemployment until the middle of this year and a rather more uneven pattern since then.

Interpretation is difficult and is not helped by the fact that the Government has largely deserted this field since the scrapping of the Department of Employment last summer. The job figures have gone over to the Central Statistical Office (CSO), with the result that the political and economic interpretation once attached to them by the Government has been removed by the statistically-pure CSO. While the Government's view may well not have been right, it was at least a benchmark against which other interpretations could be tested.

Labour market flexibility may be at least part of the answer. John Cridland, human resources director at

the CBI, suggests: "We are seeing the easy in, easy out syndrome. With more flexible labour markets, it surprised people that unemployment started to fall very quickly at an early stage in the recovery. With the current pause in growth, which is what we think it is rather than a downturn, the reductions in unemployment are drying up more quickly."

Having easily taken on more temporary and part-time workers, employers are now just as easily kicking them out as economic growth pauses. Business leaders will try to work out their own explanation for current jobless trends when the CBI's employment policy committee meets on Thursday.

For the unions, Ian Brinkley, a TUC economist, says that while recent unemployment figures have been "unstable", it is clear that "the labour market recovery has almost halted". The fall in unemployment, he says, has "slowed significantly" since the beginning of the year.

As well as the monthly claimant count figures, the Government will tomorrow publish the latest quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS), which measures unemployment differently — by surveying a sample of 60,000 households rather than totting up those successfully claiming benefit for

being out of work. A CSO working party is expected in the new year to endorse the case for the Government moving to a monthly LFS to measure unemployment, in addition to the claimant count.

LFS figures show both claimant and non-claimant unemployed, as the graph sets out. For the most recent period, up to August, the LFS data indicates some odd patterns: claimant unemployment among men is not only falling, but accounted for almost all the overall drop in unemployment. Yet male non-claimant unemployment is rising — up 42,000 in the quarter.

Political opponents of the Government who are suspicious about the statistical credibility of the unemployment figures remain unabated, tend to be drawn to so-called "administrative" explanations for unemployment changes, particularly at economic turning-points.

The thinking is that falls in the number of unemployed tend to be caused not by people moving into jobs, but by tougher application of benefit criteria against a background of tight public spending. Such suspicions tend to be raised, too, by the statistical readjustment of LFS back data, a move sharply criticised by such bodies as the independent Unemployment Unit pressure group.

Published last week, the changes were aimed at taking into full account the 1991 census information and had the effect of boosting employment estimates by an average 141,000, cutting back on the number of people economically active by 73,000, and pushing up the LFS unemployment figures by about 0.9 per cent, or as many as 21,000.

Whether or not the recent rise in the number of men out of work but not claiming benefit reflects any administrative changes is not clear. The bumpy pattern of two-way monthly claimant flows offers few clues.

Employment analysts suggest changes in non-claimant unemployment often tend to reflect economic activity rates, as people enter or re-enter the labour market and start looking for work, but don't immediately find it, and so begin showing up in the LFS self-declaration figures.

Such explanations may be even more difficult to gauge in the future, given the net impact of the looming changes to the benefit system.

The Government's new but delayed Jobseekers' Allowance, which will next year replace the current dole, is expected to push the claimant count figures down, while the changes to sickness and invalidity benefit, with much tougher tests for claimants, are thought likely to push the unemployment figures up.

Looking further ahead is even more problematic in its latest economic forecast, the CBI sees unemployment remaining above two million until at least the end of 1997, while the longer-term forecasts from the Institute for Employment Research at Warwick University see it remaining at that level until the end of the decade.

Led by John Major, ministers state publicly that unemployment at such levels is still too high, though the general feeling was that the Budget came up with precious few measures likely to help to provide more jobs. An incoming Labour government would clearly make employment its top priority.

Job experts remain sceptical of political initiatives, believing instead that a range of economic and social factors are now likely to leave unemployment permanently around the two million mark. So while tomorrow's figures may see further short-term changes, the deep and stubborn persistence of unemployment as a key feature and failing of the UK labour market is likely to be sustained.



## Lessons from the decline and rise of the US economy

It is common knowledge that the US economy is at present stuttering to something near a halt. Output is falling, stocks rising, there is a monetary slowdown, near-zero inflation and Christmas sales have started weak. All this is strongly confirmed by the most recent (mainly October) figures, and the Fed — "way behind the curve", as one commentator summed it up — is widely held to blame.

The blamers say the Fed has been dithering because of the political stand-off over the budget, which ought not to be Fed business at all, but time has run out, and rates will be cut, probably by a full half point, on December 19.

Three-quarters of all Wall Street analysts stand behind this prognosis and the near-certainty of falling rates has fuelled the Dow Jones average to one record after another. All that stands between us and this happy outcome are a handful of analysts — the inflation forebears, according to the majority — and consumers, whose confidence is rising. And, to

November compared with the previous three months, earnings are rising at a 3.5 per cent annual rate (about 2 per cent above productivity), and hours worked at a 3.1 per cent rate. And while manufacturing employment has indeed been falling right through the year, service jobs are growing much faster: a monthly average of 147,000, and 205,000 in November itself.

Is employment an oddity? No; the picture for goods orders is even more striking. Orders were off 0.3 per cent in October, but up no less than 15.4 per cent at an annual rate on the three-month comparison. In the same period, stocks rose only at a 5.2 per cent annual rate: a rise in work in progress.

The same false warnings appear everywhere. The 1.5 per cent monthly fall in capital goods orders looks forbidding; but not in the context of an 18.8 per cent growth rate on the three-month measure. This is a pause at the top — or faulty seasonal adjustment. A few figures are genuinely restrained, though not frightening.

The house market may indeed be slowing down after an intoxicating summer recovery, and some non-durables, especially textiles, are in long-term decline as services grow. But that is about all. The moral would appear to be not to cut interest rates, but to stop reading monthly statistics

as services grow. But that is about all. The moral would appear to be not to cut interest rates, but to stop reading monthly statistics

The true picture which emerges still looks puzzling at first sight. If manufacturing orders are healthy, why has the sector shed nearly a quarter of a million jobs this year? If consumers are still spending — notably on cars, even without last year's price cuts, and the more expensive light trucks — why are investment goods rather than consumer goods showing the real growth? The answer is in one acronym: NAFTA.

Hemispheric free trade is indeed exporting jobs, just as the unions feared; but the US is providing the tools and the software. Demand may be rather too dependent on the wealth illusions created on Wall Street; but on the whole, the picture is of a country enjoying a remarkable, smooth structural transformation. Please copy.

For what little it is worth, the market prediction is for a 5,000 fall tomorrow

### Mis-timed selling

From Mrs O. D. T. Vidal  
Sir, I read with interest Keith Oates's letter in the Business section of *The Times* ("St Michael's future secure", November 24).

I wondered just how secure it was after a visit to our local Marks & Spencer store in Lyon, France, where they are selling hot cross buns (ie. Good Friday buns) three weeks before Christmas (Christ's birthday).

Yours faithfully,  
O. D. T. VIDAL,  
59 Route de Paris,  
69260 Charbonnières-les-Bains, France.

Letters to the Business section of *The Times* can be faxed on 0171-782 5112.

### Tax liability on Grid shares

From Brigadier H. F. Everard  
Sir, Thousands of shareholders with the Regional Electricity Companies (Rec) are to be unjustly penalised by the Inland Revenue. The distribution of National Grid Group (NGG) shares to Rec shareholders is to be treated as if it were a cash dividend to the value of the quoted NGG share price as at December 11, 1995. As such, a tax liability

### Confusion over tax on pensions

From Mr John Mendes  
Sir, I have an occupational pension, with tax deducted under a pay code, and a self-funded retirement pension from a scheme which was fully approved by the Inland Revenue and also has tax deducted at source.

But this latter pension cannot have tax deducted under a pay code because, according to the Revenue, it is not a personal pension, but an ex-retirement annuity contract. This means that I am considerably overtaxed every month and wait until June of the following financial year for a refund.

There must be many future pensioners, who will face life on a reduced income with every pound important to

meet day-to-day living costs, unaware of this technical difference. Put bluntly, it means that not as much as they have been led to expect.

It is just not good enough to say that they will be refunded the following year. Anybody who says that has never lived on a tight monthly income. And as the present Government wants more citizens to fund their own pensions rather than relying on the state, it should look at this situation in which a personal pension is not necessarily a personal pension.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MENDES  
1 Lower Street,  
Cavendish,  
Suffolk.

will arise. This ignores the fact that because the NGG is currently part of the Rec's assets, there will be a significant and compensating fall in the Rec share price at the time of the distribution. Thus the true value of the NGG shares to the shareholders will be much less than their face value. It is even conceivable that the combined share prices of the NGG and REC shares after distribution, could be less than the Rec share price pre-distribution: in this case the shareholders will be paying tax on a loss! I consider it would be more equitable were the tax liability to be based on a formula in which the original value of the Rec shares, ie that price obtained before distribution, is deducted from the combined value of the NGG and REC shares post-distribution. The result would represent the net value of the distribution to the Rec shareholders and a fair figure on which to base the tax liability.

### Sign of freedom

From Mr Alan Toop  
Sir, I do not understand why BT's formation of a European works council (EWC) should be seen as a "blow to the Government's opt-out from the EU social chapter" (Business, December 8).

What the opt-out preserves is a British company's freedom to make whatever voluntary arrangements seem best. BT has used this freedom to decide in favour of an EWC. Fine, but that's no argument for imposing EWCs on other companies, whose different situations may require different arrangements.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN TOOP,  
The Sales Machine,  
5 Dolphin Square,  
Edensor Road, W4.

### Turbulent time

From Thomas and Mary Clark  
Sir, Our Little Oxford Dictionary defines Sir Rocco as: "Hot, moist, oppressive wind reaching Italy". Hopefully, not easily blown off course by a hostile puff of wind from Granada.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS AND MARY CLARK,  
5 The Anchorage,  
157 Mudeford,  
Christchurch, Dorset.

## SHAFTESBURY PLC

Results for the year ended 30th September 1995

	1995	1994	Increase
• Profit Before Taxation	£3.65m	£2.35m	+55%
• Earnings per Share	7.5p	5.8p	+29%
• Total Dividends per Share	1.5p	1.0p	+50%
• Shareholders' Funds	£54.17m	£48.65m	+11%

"Our performance this year owes much to our strategy of focusing our activities in busy retail and tourist locations in London's West End. I am pleased to report further significant acquisitions during the year which extend our property investments in this unique area. I am confident that, by concentrating our activities in locations where we have considerable experience and local knowledge, we will continue to produce above average growth in income and capital values."

Peter L. Levy  
Chairman

Copies of the 1995 Annual Report can be obtained from The Secretary, Shaftesbury PLC, Pegasus House, 37/43 Sackville Street, London W1X 2DL. (tel: 0171 333 8118).



## Shake-up in sector forecast by Stakis

By Nick Sutton

DAVID MICHELS, chief executive of Stakis, the hotels and casinos group, yesterday predicted gradual consolidation within the industry in the wake of Granada's bid for Forte.

Announcing Stakis financial results for the year to October 31, Mr Michels, former deputy chief executive of Hilton UK, stated his belief that by the turn of the century there would be only six major hotel groups in Britain.

Growth at Stakis over the past year continued, with turnover rising 18.9 per cent to £173.4 million (£145.9 million). The company also maintained its development programme, purchasing or building six hotels and two casinos across Britain at a cost of £36.2 million, and planning a further £33.4 million capital expenditure during the current year.

Although the casino division, which accounts for about one third of the company's turnover, saw a downturn in pre-tax profits from £12.5 million to £11.7 million, group profits were boosted by a strong performance in the hotels division. Overall pre-tax profits rose to £25.8 million (£20.2 million).

Mr Michels blamed the National Lottery for some of the fall in casino profits, but predicted a promising future as Stakis continued to improve casinos.

He hoped that the Government would issue a White Paper in the new year to reduce the current tight regulation.

Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 4.93p (4.27p), and the announcement of a final dividend of 1.0p, payable on April 12, raised the total dividend to 13 per cent to 1.75p (1.55p).

The results failed to meet City expectations, however, and the shares closed down 3p at 79p.

Tempus, page 28



Alec Daly, the new chairman of Cray Communications, flanked by Jon Richards, left, chief executive, and Roger Dye, finance director.

## Newly arrived deputy pressed into top slot at troubled Cray

By Patricia Tehan

ROGER HOLLAND, chairman of Cray Electronics, the troubled data communications company, stepped down on Monday night and was replaced by his newly appointed deputy, Alec Daly.

Mr Holland has faced criticism over Cray's poor performance. But Jon Richards, the chief executive, said that there was no boardroom pressure for him to step down, and the decision was Mr Holland's. He will stay on as a non-executive director.

The changes were announced as Cray revealed that profits had slumped from £10.1 million in the first half

last year to losses of £14.6 million in the six months to October 31. As a result of its losses, Cray made a 6.3p loss per share and has waived its interim dividend payment — last time it made a first-half payment of 1p. Group turnover fell from £135 million to £129 million.

Mr Richards said: "When the business is profitable then the dividend stream will resume." Analysts are forecasting a reduced loss in the second half and a return to profitability next year.

Cray's losses followed a warning to shareholders in September and broadly met

City expectations. The shares rose 2p to 47p. Analysts expressed relief that the interim results did not contain any unpleasant surprises.

The main reasons for the losses were a £9.3 million exceptional cost of stock write-down, restructuring and redundancies in Cray Communications. The business lost 130 jobs, taking its staffing down to 1,500 and the group's headcount down to 3,400. Mr Richards said there were no plans for further cuts, but they could not be ruled out.

Mr Richards said that the benefits of the recovery programme would be seen in the

second half. Cray Communications is now focusing on six product areas and has cut its research and development spending from £18 million to £15 million this year. Older products would still be supported, he said.

Mr Richards said that although turnover in Cray Communications was 10 per cent lower than in the same period last year, it improved by £2 million in the second half to £74 million, when "normally the second half is stronger". Orders were also ahead.

Mr Richards moved to take direct control of Cray Communications. In addition to his

group role, last December. This was beginning to pay off, he said, as a more open atmosphere was developing, with staff encouraged to raise issues with management.

Over the past year two-thirds of the senior management has changed, with 13 new appointments, including a new finance director, Roger Dye formerly of Domino, the inkjet printing company.

Mr Richards said: "Data communications is an exciting business area. There is a job to be done. Morale in the business is much better. We are trying to position the business to do better in the future."

## Pillar ahead despite loss on sale of shopping centre

By Carl Mortished

PILLAR Property Investments has suffered a loss against book value on the sale of Tower Ramparts, a shopping centre in Ipswich. The property group made a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million during the half year to September 30 after taking a loss of £352,000 on the disposal. The result compared with a profit of £34,000 in the period last year.

The property was acquired in 1991 for £16.5 million and the sale contributed a surplus of £4.8 million to Pillar's balance sheet. Patrick Vaughan, chief executive, said the loss represented the deficit between the price on disposal and the valuation of the prop-



Vaughan: rental growth

erty in March. Mr Vaughan indicated that Pillar's shopping centres and retail parks had seen good rental growth

but Tower Ramparts had suffered the loss of tenants.

Pillar is paying its first interim dividend, a distribution of 1.5p per share. Earnings per share were 1p for the half year but the surplus on the sale of Tower Ramparts, plus the trading profit, more than covered the dividend.

In conjunction with General Electric Pension Trust, Pillar has acquired Cannon Bridge, the headquarters of the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe), for £64 million. Pillar said yesterday that Liffe's decision to take space in the Stock Exchange building did not affect its lease at Cannon Bridge.

## Labour backs plans to tax company parking spaces

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

PLANS for a £4 billion-a-year tax on companies' staff car parking spaces were given enthusiastic backing by Labour yesterday.

The proposals, outlined in a report from the lobby group Transport 2000 on reducing commuting by car, would involve a £500-a-year levy on each of Britain's estimated three million company parking spaces.

The money raised would be handed back to business in the form of a rebate against the uniform business rate, with smaller companies receiving the bulk of the hand out, according to the proposals. As an example, the report

suggested that the first 100 sq ft of a business's premises could be rate-free while the next 200 sq ft would pay only a small proportion of the normal rate.

Under the current business rate system car parking is not taxed in its own right but included as a value increase to a business's "useable space".

The report, *Moving Together: Policies to Cut Car Commuting*, said that the tax could be phased in over five years, starting at £2 per week per space, rising to £10 per space or £4 billion a year.

The report predicted that the tax would provide a

incentive for firms to encourage employees to leave their cars at home. The tax would eventually wither away as company car parks were reduced in size or abandoned altogether.

"Overall the aim is to have zero impact on business costs and employee benefits, while encouraging safer, healthier, and more environmentally friendly modes of travel in a positive and very direct way," the report concluded.

Graham Allen, a Labour transport spokesman, said the ideas were "very attractive indeed" and that he would push hard for them to be adopted as official policy.

## Travis Perkins bids £14.1m for BMSS

TRAVIS PERKINS, the builder's merchant, is making a £14.1 million recommended cash offer for BMSS, which also supplies materials for the building industry. Travis is offering 153p per share and has already received acceptances from BMSS directors and their family trusts in respect of about 70 per cent of the company's equity. BMSS shares rose to 150p from 119p yesterday.

Travis Perkins has a national network of 217 branches. The company said that BMSS, which trades from 26 branches, was complementary and would strengthen its presence in the West Midlands, Manchester and Wales. In the year to January 3, BMSS earned pre-tax profits of £700,000 on turnover of £18.6 million. Profits for the first half of the current year were £401,000 before tax (£287,000), and net assets were £10 million at July 31. Travis Perkins shares rose 2p to 343p.

## Hunters Armley ahead

PRE-TAX profits at Hunters Armley Group, the commercial printing company, rose 17.6 per cent to £4.07 million (£3.46 million) for the year ended September 30. Despite increases in paper prices, figures announced yesterday showed a rise in earnings per share to 10.51p (10.01p). The payment of a final dividend of 3p a share on February 23 will take the total dividend for the year to 4.5p (4.0p). The board is cautiously optimistic about prospects in the current year. David Bird, chairman, said: "The short term order book is full and the medium term order book is better than last year." The shares rose 2p to 137p.

## Precoat rises 24%

PRECOAT INTERNATIONAL, the precoat steel specialist company, reported a 24.5 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £1.56 million from £1.26 million for the half-year ended October 31. The company, whose shares were floated on the stock market in April, is paying an interim dividend of 2.2p a share (1.79p) to shareholders on January 26. Ian Williams, the chairman, also announced that a rise in sales of 20 per cent, and a slight improvement in net margins had boosted earnings per share to 7.16p from 6.01p.

## Bradstock payout held

BRADSTOCK Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, is holding the total dividend at 5.7p a share after suffering a downturn in profits to £6.1 million before tax from £8.2 million in the year to September 30. The company was affected by a downturn in premium levels and reduced revenue from the insolvency scheme. The company said there had been some recovery in the insurance division's non-insolvency brokerage in the second half. Earnings fell to 6p from 8.9p. However, the shares rose 9p to 75p yesterday.

## Halma advances again

HALMA, the safety and environmental technology group, achieved record interim profits for the twentieth successive year, earning £14.38 million before tax in the six months to September 30, compared with £12.48 million in the previous first half. Earnings rose to 3.61p a share from 3.15p. The interim dividend, due on February 12, is 1.008p a share (0.84p). David Barber, chairman, said the promising interim figures gave confidence that the company would maintain its growth pattern. During the six-month period, £3.5 million was spent on acquisitions and £3.1 million on capital expenditure.

## Toad seeks £3.5m

TOAD, the car security products company whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, is asking investors for £3.5 million to fund the purchase of NAS, a distributor of vehicle security products, mobile phones and in-car audio entertainment systems. Toad has agreed to pay £1.23 million in cash and shares and will use the balance from the placing and open offer to fund working capital requirements. Toad is issuing new shares at 90p each. Existing shares fell 13p to 103p yesterday. Toad reported losses of £801,350 for the half year to the end of September.

## Slimma profits shrink

SLIMMA, the specialist clothes manufacturer which supplies mail order companies and high street retailers, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £33,000 from £1.02 million in the year to September 29. The company blamed the continued downturn in consumer spending and a switch in sales towards multiples, resulting in lower margins. Earnings were 0.3p a share (5p). The final dividend has been halved to 1.3p a share, reducing the total to 2.6p from 3.9p. The shares fell 5p to 40p yesterday. Slimma said it was optimistic, with a strong order book and improved margins.

### LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

#### LEGAL NOTICES

**CARDOVE LIMITED**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the members of the above company are required to attend a meeting of the company to be held at the offices of the company, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0J, on Thursday, 14th December 1995, at 10.00 am, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed resolution to wind up the company.

**FANTING GONGDING LIMITED**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the members of the above company are required to attend a meeting of the company to be held at the offices of the company, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0J, on Thursday, 14th December 1995, at 10.00 am, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed resolution to wind up the company.

**TOTAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES (OVERSEAS) LTD**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the members of the above company are required to attend a meeting of the company to be held at the offices of the company, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0J, on Thursday, 14th December 1995, at 10.00 am, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed resolution to wind up the company.

**YONG LIMITED**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the members of the above company are required to attend a meeting of the company to be held at the offices of the company, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0J, on Thursday, 14th December 1995, at 10.00 am, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed resolution to wind up the company.

**THE LAYTONS BUILDING**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the members of the above company are required to attend a meeting of the company to be held at the offices of the company, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0J, on Thursday, 14th December 1995, at 10.00 am, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed resolution to wind up the company.

**THE LAYTONS BUILDING**  
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## WMI to charge £123m

By Martin Barrow

WASTE Management International is to charge £123.2 million in the fourth quarter against a widespread restructuring, it was disclosed yesterday.

The company also warned shareholders that results for the final three months of the financial year would fall below expectations. Profits have been affected by a decline in the price of recyclable materials, particularly in Germany, and by the strikes in France, which had severely disrupted operations.

The exceptional charge follows a review of the company's operations and management structure undertaken in late summer after the appointment of Joseph Holsten as chief executive.

More than 300 jobs are likely to go as WMI consolidates country and regional offices and centralises some administrative and management functions to reduce costs. The company is also committed to the disposal of non-core businesses and investments in markets of low potential.

Finally, WMI is considering a withdrawal from certain hazardous waste treatment technologies, where the current market risk no longer justifies the anticipated returns.

## Berkeley builds to £19m at halfway

BERKELEY, the house-building company, bucked the sector trend by announcing an increase in profits of 7 per cent to £19 million for the six months to October 31 (Alasdair Murray writes).

Berkeley, which specialises in upmarket houses, said that it had succeeded in holding margins at a similar level to last year, while the average selling price increased from £190,000 to £196,000. Graham

Roper, chief executive of Berkeley, said that although the market remained uncertain the company was confident about the future with forward sales rising in October and November.

The share price rose 3p to close at 486p. Turnover was up 13 per cent to £146 million, with the number of housing units sold rising from 641 to 702.

The company added that it

had increased land purchases after a fall in prices at the end of the summer.

Berkeley remains financially strong with no gearing and £2 million cash in hand, a consequence of its policy of selling forward early, although during the second half the company anticipates gearing will increase to 25 per cent.

The interim dividend was increased by 9.5 per cent to 2.3p due on February 14.

## National Australia Bank Limited.

Notice is hereby given that -

- The Annual General Meeting of shareholders of National Australia Bank Limited will be held at the John Bateman Theatre, Level 3, World Congress Centre, corner Spencer and Flinders Streets, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on Thursday, 25 January 1996 at 10.00 am (Eastern Australian Summer Time).
- Final Dividend of 43 Australian cents per share has been declared by the Bank and is payable on 24 January 1996 to shareholders registered on 29 December 1995. To participate, transfers of shares on the London Register must be lodged no later than 5.00 pm Thursday, 28 December 1995 at the Bank's London Register 6-8 Tokenhouse Yard, London, EC2R 7AJ.

GF Nolan, Company Secretary,  
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**Perkins bids  
for BMSS**

## Perkins bids for BMSS

Wimley ahead

... rises 24%

10% pay out held

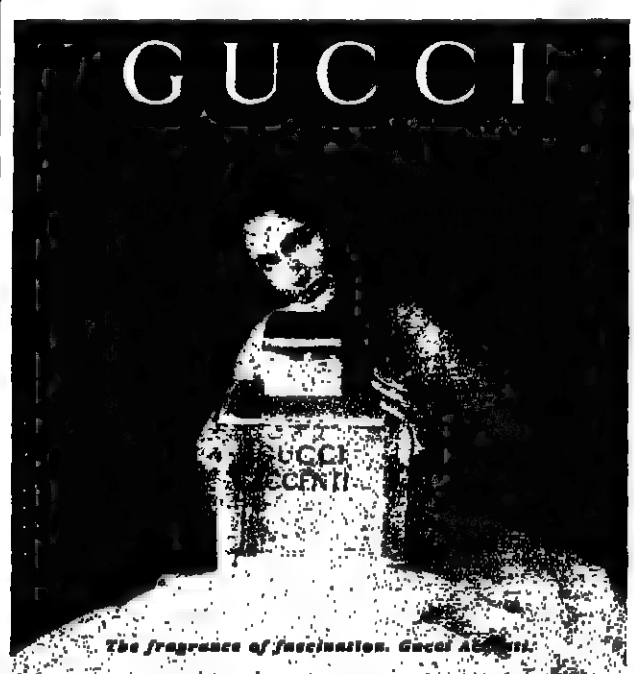
advances again

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Craig Seton introduces a two-page special report to celebrate the centenary of a seat of learning in Birmingham with high hopes

# First-class ambition in the second city

One hundred years after its foundation, the University of Aston is preparing to put into action a crucial new phase of a strategy that is designed to secure a dynamic and expanding role for the institution into the 21st century.

The university, in Birmingham, plans to increase student numbers by more than 30 per cent by the year 2000 (including many more overseas students), attracting them by introducing a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes more closely geared to the demands of modern industry, commerce and public services.

The university also proposes to recruit students with qualifications other than A levels, upgrade Aston's national and international research standing, restructure its three faculties, create new schools of studies and offer study opportunities for people with experience of work.

Professor Mike Wright, senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who takes over as Vice-Chancellor next August, says the changes will demonstrate Aston's ability to be responsive and adaptable to the changing environment while maintaining its reputation for the highest academic standards and commitment to quality in teaching and research.

The changes are the next step in a fundamental restructuring started in 1981 after big reductions in funding by the then University Grants Committee, which led to student numbers being cut by more than a third, academic staffing by a half and the reorganisation of departments into three faculties.

Since then the university has recruited new academics and spent £20 million refurbishing the campus and installing a computer Local Area Network (LAN) linking 2,000 terminals, the largest system at any British university.

The developments over the past 10-15 years will be the springboard for regeneration, heralding a new chapter in the progress of an institution founded as the Birmingham Municipal Technical School in 1895, which received its university charter in 1966.

Professor Wright, who will oversee the strategic developments, is a former Aston University student chosen to succeed Professor Sir Frederick Crawford when he retires next year. He believes the true essence of Aston's mission state-



Aston University students collecting cash for local charities in Birmingham during their rag week

ment to be a leading technological university is for it to become a "really useful" institution operating in the real world, while retaining the essential qualities of academic creativity.

But, Professor Wright says: "That is not to say that we should become sub-contract research and development units. There needs to be a partnership between universities and industry and commerce to work for UK Ltd and, in our case, for Birmingham Ltd."

The professor, a former engineering apprentice, spent 18 years in senior positions in industry before joining Aston in 1990 and he retains links with numerous companies.

He says the changes are Aston's response to the revolution that has created greater access to higher education, the development of new vocational qualifications, and demands for high-grade graduates with multi-disciplinary rather than narrowly based skills. Universities, he points out, also have to look for more private funding and rely less on government finance.

Almost 4,500 students are involved in Aston's mix of applied courses in the faculties of engineering and applied science, life and



Professor Wright: company links

health sciences and management, languages and European studies.

Professor Wright wants to see an increase in "sensible" learning packages, including more multi-disciplinary and modular programmes and says a new range of postgraduate courses will be developed. "There is major market demand for continuing vocational education and professional development."

Research, too, will be conducted in line with regional, national and

international objectives. Professor Wright insists that the quality of the student intake will not be diminished by proposals to increase the recruitment of students with the very best qualifications in BTEC and GNVQs, which will help to create a bigger university with a wider academic base. He says: "It is ludicrous to assume that universities should remain constant. A university has to develop in a way that reflects the subject-based aspirations of its students."

The professor says the academic structure of nine departments in three faculties will probably change in the next 18 months to create four schools of study, including a new school of humanities to build on the university's strengths in languages and European studies.

This could involve the development of courses in Chinese, Japanese and possibly Russian languages, probably in association with other universities at home and abroad. Such linguistic programmes, he says, could be allied to global business studies and other courses such as international law and international negotiations.

## LANDMARKS

THE development of Aston University as a centre for technological education in the "metal-bashing" city of Birmingham began when the Birmingham Municipal Technical School opened its doors in 1895.

After its official opening 100 years ago today, there were classes in chemistry, physics, metallurgy, electrical engineering, mathematics, engineering, drawing, botany and typography. 2,000 students enrolled.

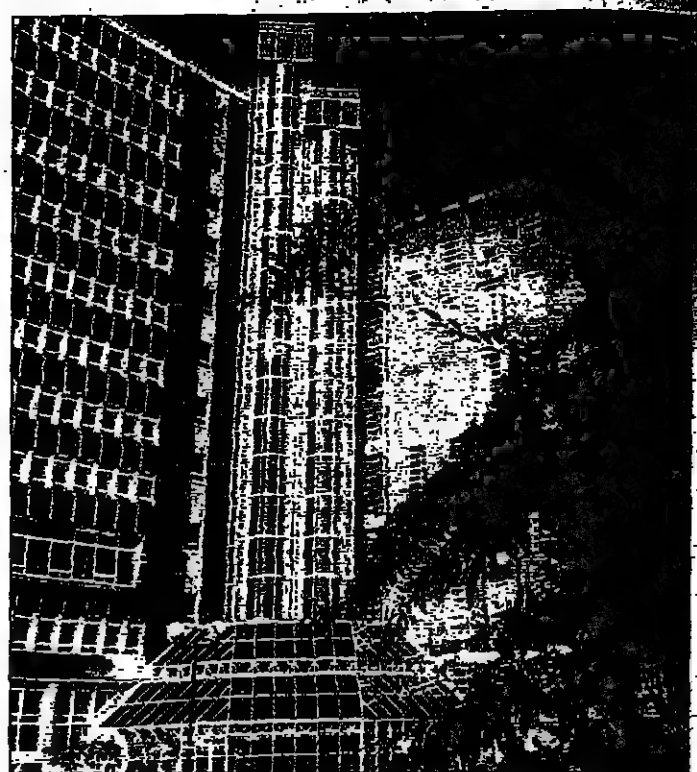
By 1911 it had expanded to include classes in commercial subjects and within five years it had become an independent commercial college. In 1930 it was renamed the Birmingham Central Technical College and moved to Gosta Green, now known as Aston Triangle. After the Second World War a department of industrial administration was created. By then there were 10,000 students.

In the early 1950s work on a new main building started and the first full-time sandwich courses were introduced. It became the first College of Technology (CAT) in the country in 1957. The following year 34 electrical engineering students received the first National Council for Technology Awards.

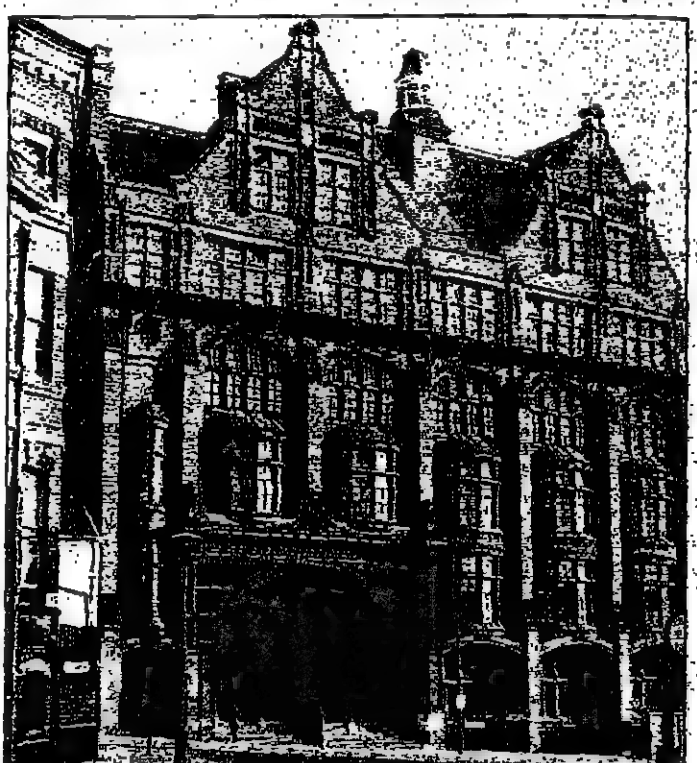
Dr (later Sir) Peter Venables was appointed Principal and in 1963 the Robbins Committee on Higher Education recommended that CATs should become technological universities. Aston's university charter was formally sealed in 1966 and Lord Nelson of Stafford was installed as the first Chancellor.

Dr (later Sir) Joseph Pope succeeded Dr Venables as Vice-Chancellor and in 1980, the present Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, was appointed. The university then faced sharp reductions in funding and student numbers, imposed by the University Grants Committee.

Student numbers were reduced from 5,500 to 3,400 and academic staff numbers were halved from more than 500. Sir Frederick says: "We went for standards and quality and have not had a deficit for 16 years."



Today: Aston University's entrance dominated by sky lifts



Yesterday: Birmingham Municipal Technical School, 1895

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Groundbreaking research, bold plans, partnerships with business. Craig Seton spotlights an institution with its mind on the future



Study facilities at Aston are among the best in Britain. Students can take advantage of extensive information technology, strong links with continental Europe, up-to-date instruments and well-equipped lecture halls and laboratories

## New jobs bring new life

One of the great successes of the university has been its role in the development of the neighbouring Aston Science Park which, since 1983, has grown into a flourishing enterprise accommodating 95 knowledge-based companies employing 1,200 people.

Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, the Vice-Chancellor, recognised the potential for a science park at Aston after returning to the UK in the early 1980s from Stanford University in California, where the concept of technology transfer between academic institutions and industry was flourishing.

Together, the university, Birmingham City Council and Lloyds Bank have forged a partnership to launch a science park on a 22-acre site alongside Aston. In 1983 the first companies moved into a new business and innovation centre there and began the work of exploiting new-technology developments.

The science park today is embarking on an £18 million expansion programme to provide an additional 160,000 square feet of high quality office, commercial and retail accommodation, increasing its size by 75 per cent. The new developments could create up to 1,000 more jobs and will go ahead in two phases.

Derek Harris, chief executive of Birmingham Technology, the park's management company, says the facility has been a huge boost to Birmingham after its loss of so many traditional industries. "It has brought a balance to the city by attracting some of the newer technologies and businesses."

## The school that offers real world experience

A key aim of Aston Business School is for all its courses to be relevant to the rapidly-changing needs of industry, commerce and the public services, according to Dr Fred Hewitt, its head.

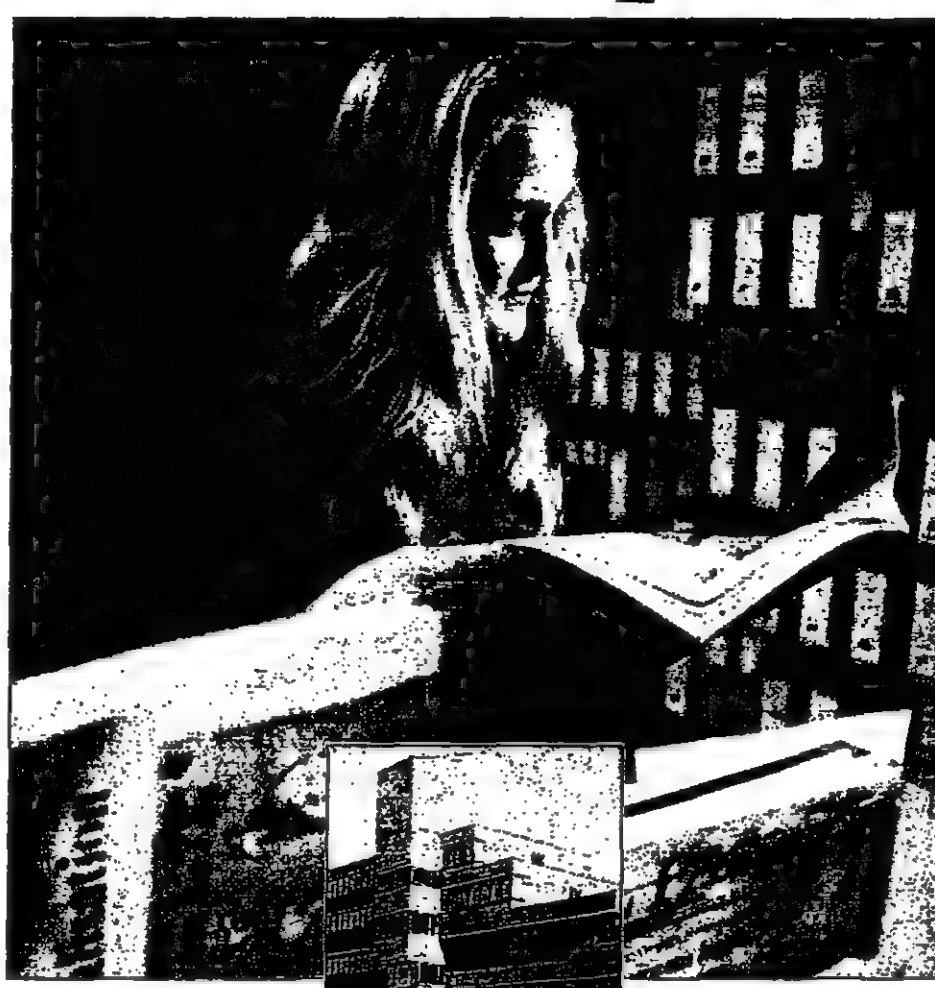
The school was created as a separate entity during reorganisation at the university in the early 1980s, and is now one of the largest management training schools in Europe.

The business school accounts for about 40 per cent of academic activities at Aston. More than 1,000 undergraduates are taking degrees there and a similar number are taking joint honours degrees, splitting their studies between the school and other parts of the university.

One of the most popular courses, for both students and employers, is the four-year BSc in Managerial and Administrative Studies, which includes a one-year work experience placement at one of the 100 companies and organisations, in the UK and abroad, with which the school has firm links.

"Graduates from that course often get a top rating from employers in terms of suitability because they have real world experience," says Dr Hewitt, a former business executive, who believes that the school's services to the area, including regional firms such as Tarmac, LMI, PowerGen and the TSB bank are playing a vital role in the region's much-needed economic regeneration.

As well as offering undergraduate and postgraduate



For instance, 20 senior staff nurses from the West Midlands Health Authority have taken specialist courses there, helping to prepare them for managerial roles. Most have now opted to do part-time Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses.

Aston Business School: passport to a top job

## After the cuts, a new climate of optimism

Aston University began a 15-year restructuring programme in 1981, covering every aspect of its activities, after its income from the University Grants Committee was cut by about one third over three years.

The drastic cuts in student and academic staff numbers that followed were a savage blow. But led by Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, the Vice-Chancellor, it set about the task of realigning its affairs to cope with the new financial reality.

Professor Crawford and senior academics say that during the past 15 years they have worked to ensure that high standards in teaching, research and management have been at the heart of the restructuring, which is now nearly completed.

A period of new growth and development has begun.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Tighe, who has been at Aston for 25 years, says there has been a campus-wide programme to make sure staff are aware of quality issues, establish benchmarking standards and decide where improvement programmes, led by academics, should be put in place. Groups have been set up to analyse various university activities such as staff recruitment, student welfare and financial management.

"I do not see why universities should not be judged in the same way as businesses," he says. "Very early on Aston analysed its teaching and research in terms of economic viability. Now every university does the same."

Professor Tighe points out that the French section of the department of languages and European studies scored top marks for learning resources, student progression and achievement, student support and guidance and curriculum design, content and organisation in an assessment by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Similar results were achieved in chemical engineering — and the university is

also in the top five for library provision.

David Packham, the university registrar, says the centenary celebrations at Aston are an appropriate occasion to look back on developments over the past century and look forward to the new millennium. He believes Aston has been transformed by the changes it has gone through during the past 15 years, and well deserves its reputation as a dynamic, progressive university in applied learning.

The placement year, during which students spend time working in industry and organisations, or abroad for language courses, remains at the heart of applied learning at Aston.

Two thirds of the university's 4,500 students spend part of their time gaining experience of what academics routinely describe as "the real world".

Aston has remained at or near the top of the graduate employment statistics for almost a decade. Around two thirds of its graduates manage to find full-time employment within six months of graduating. This compares with the national average of less than half of the students graduating.

Mr Packham says the university has gained international recognition for research that meets the demands of industry and commerce, including its work in neural networks, photonics, synthetic biomaterials, high-speed machinery, pharmaceuticals, and structures and materials.



Professor Crawford, the Vice-Chancellor

## Royalties help to improve facilities

WHEN royalty payments start flowing, a university is entitled to believe that its research is both relevant and productive.

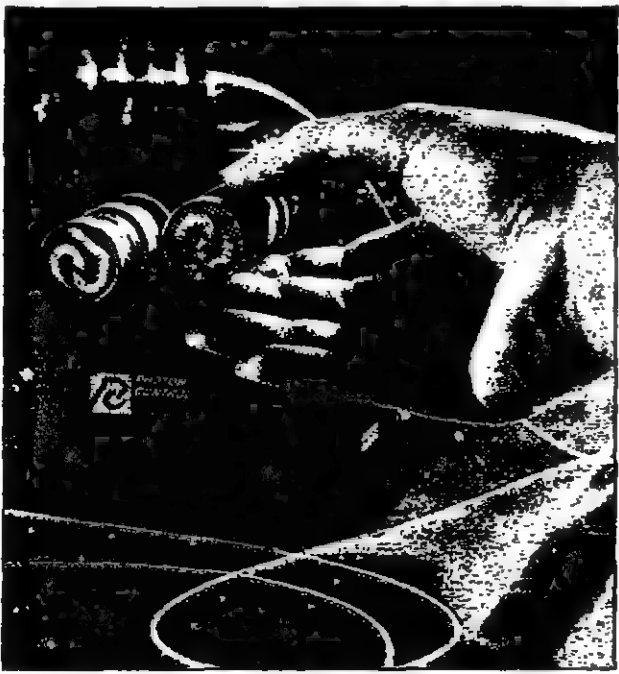
That is the case with Aston's department of pharmaceutical and biological sciences, where a specialist drugs group, researching the discovery and development of new drugs, has discovered three molecules that have now gone into clinical trials. One of the molecules, an anti-cancer compound, is in advanced clinical trials with a drugs company and royalties are being paid to the department.

Professor David Billington, head of the department, says the last payment amounted to £50,000 and the money has been used to upgrade the chemistry laboratories. Overall, the department attracts about £1 million a year from outside sources, including charities, research councils and companies that collaborate in its research. The department also teaches about 400 undergraduates who are taking degrees in pharmacy, and in human biology. It also has a postgraduate school.

In general, the department carrying out research on drugs focuses on proliferative and degenerative diseases, such as cancer and diabetes, and has forged links with numerous companies, such as Glaxo and Wellcome.

The department is part of the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences, which also includes the department of vision sciences, the largest of its type in the United Kingdom. This vision sciences department has facilities for undergraduate teaching, research and clinical work.

Its degree in optometry creates professional clinicians who are responsible for vision care and for assessing functional disorders of the eye and visual systems.



Photonics research in electronic engineering

## Working to avoid the bottlenecks

SOME of the biggest international telecommunications companies are working with the university's department of electronic engineering and applied physics to develop advanced systems to improve the transmission of data by optical means.

BT, Nortel, Marconi, Alcatel, GPT and Hewlett Packard are among the firms that have established links with the department's research activities in photonics.

Professor Mike Cardwell, head of the department, says the huge advances and growth in international telecommunications are driving forward research into new systems for high-speed transmission of information.

He points out that while optical fibre is currently used worldwide to carry data long distances in the form of light, the rapid development of the information superhighway across countries will overburden other elements of the system, such as telephone exchanges and electronic

## Did the Bard write that play?

RESEARCHERS in the computer science and applied mathematics department at Aston have used neural computing to determine whether Shakespeare or his contemporary, John Fletcher, penned *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, a play whose authorship has long been a source of dispute.

The department's neural computing research group has established an international reputation for its work in designing neural networks, intelligent artificial systems that adopt pattern recognition behaviour in order to learn by example.

The concept of neural computing started as an attempt to develop smart systems that could mimic the thinking intelligence of the human brain. What has been achieved so far is usually applied to tasks in industry and commerce, but the group used the technology to compare the disputed play with Shakespeare's masterpieces to see if patterns of literary style could be identified. The results are to be announced shortly, but Professor David Lowe, Professor of Neural Computing, reveals that sections of the play were apparently written individually by the two playwrights and other parts were a collaborative effort. He adds: "The findings are consistent with current thinking."

The research group consists of three professors, seven lecturers and postgraduate and research students. Professor Lowe says: "Most UK universities will have someone working on neural networks, but we have developed a research team that we believe is the strongest in Europe and we have established links with industry and commerce both here and abroad." The university's MScs, offered through research in pattern analysis and neural networks, were the first of their kind in the country.

Applications for neural networks are diverse. Finance houses are keen on the technology for advanced data analysis and car makers want it for developing "smart" systems controlling functions in vehicles. A Japanese microwave oven manufacturer has introduced neural computing to determine how long food should be cooked. Professor Lowe says that while much of the group's work is of a theoretical nature, it will have further commercial applications. Among the department's best publicised work was that last June by Robert Matthews, a visiting professor. His paper *Tumbling Toast, Murphy's Law and the Fundamental Constants* proved the propensity of toast to land buttered-side down.

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## Early gains not held

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Source: Pregel





THEATRE 1

Off the rails: *Trainspotting* brings a vision of disaffected youth to the West End



THEATRE 2

Winning hand: the fine new *According to Hoyle* explores the deceptive world of the poker player

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3

...and there are more superb performances as *The Glass Menagerie* reopens in the West End



TOMORROW

How will Alexandre Dumas' *The Tower* fare in a new staging at the Almeida?

THEATRE: No heroes, just heroin — Andy Lavender welcomes *Trainspotting* to the bright lights; plus London reviews

# West End gets smack in the face

Has there ever been a play as raw as *Trainspotting* in a West End theatre? The title suggests a pleasant light comedy about anoraks carrying packed lunches. But the signs outside the Ambassadors Theatre (where the play is in preview) proclaim that some will find the show disturbing. And the play's opening scene, in which a young man recounts how he messed the bed in all conceivable ways after a drunken binge, dispels any lingering illusions. Based on the cult novel by Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting* vividly depicts the experiences — both blissful and devastating — of a group of unemployed young people in Edinburgh as they veer in and out of heroin addiction.

While Welsh's novels *The Acid House*, *Marabou Stork Nightmares* and *Trainspotting* have climbed the bestseller lists, the theatre adaptation of the latter has become a phenomenon in its own right. It started when Harry Gibson, a play-reader at Glasgow's Citizens Theatre, became so bored with the scripts he was being sent that he went into a bookshop and demanded something interesting. A few pages into Welsh's novel he knew he had struck gold. His adaptation enjoyed a sell-out run last year at the Citizens, transferred to the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and then to London's Bush Theatre. He directed a revival at the Citizens earlier this year, which

has subsequently been packing out English theatres from Liverpool to Leicester. Welsh's next novel, *Ecstasy*, is due out in the spring, and the team that made the film of *Shallow Grave* is working on its own version of *Trainspotting*, due for release in February.

The novel is in 48 short sections, and Gibson has retained this jagged structure in his adaptation for the theatre. "It's a little bit like *The Canterbury Tales*," he says. "All these people are together, but they've all got a story to tell. There's a sense of a community building up in a fascinating way. It's a post-modern novel in that it throws away a straight narrative. You're just left to look at the fragments. A man will kick his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach, people will walk out of each other's lives and crash into them again. This fragmented feeling is what the life that Irvine is portraying is actually like."

When you consider that the subject matter includes opium suppositories, a cat death and HIV infection, it quickly becomes clear that this is not a standard piece of escapist entertainment. "The thought of doing this in the West End gives you a sense of triumph and a sense of subversion," Gibson says. "It's a kind of buzz to know that you're seeing this filthy piece of work in the home of *The Mousetrap*, as was, until it moved." The whole project stands out by virtue of being dirty and different

‘We don't do luvvie theatre in a Scots accent’



Harry Gibson adapted Irvine Welsh's novel *Trainspotting* for the stage after becoming bored with the bona fide plays he was sent to read. The rest is lowlife history

somehow more authentic. Welsh is a Scot who knows intimately the worlds about which he writes. A former heroin user, he worked as a housing officer in Edinburgh and now lives in Amsterdam. Gibson himself is used to crossing between class barriers. He has what he accurately describes as an "ex-Oxford University accent", but professes a keen sense of his heritage as the son of a factory worker from Aberdeen.

Here, then, is a play which gives a voice to an underclass — and a

Scottish underclass at that, rooted in the blasted environment of urban Edinburgh and Leith. Where writers and film-makers such as Alan Sillitoe, Jim Allen and Ken Loach presented visions of working-class England in the 1960s, a similar vigour and compassion is now found in the work of Scottish novelists such as Welsh, James Kelman and Iain Banks, whose books hum with vernacular energy. "The Scottish novelists' and intellectuals' use of language has always been very rich," Gibson

says. "It's a bit like the Irish. You don't just say what you mean: you make it colourful, rich, compelling, moving, violent and thrilling." It is not surprising, he suggests, that Scotland's storytelling tradition is more deeply ingrained than its theatre tradition.

"A culture of plays didn't really start until the 1930s, when the original Citizens company and the Clyde Unity company started doing socialist theatre," he says. "In fact, there's always been a socialist edge to modern theatre in Scotland. We

don't do luvvie theatre in a Scots accent very much." The last accusation that you could level at *Trainspotting* is that it is a luvvie play. The comedy is hard-edged and there is no comforting moral viewpoint imposed on the events depicted. Is it, then, a socialist piece? "It is socialist in the way that Scots mean 'socialist', which means it's just a play with a great sense of honouring its roots among working people," Gibson says. "But it doesn't have a *Guardian*-reading, somewhat patronising agenda

about what we should do and feel. It's written from within the culture, where everybody's saying: 'This is us, listen to us!'"

They are now saying it from a West End stage. According to Gibson, Welsh "doesn't like novels, doesn't approve of the theatre particularly, and sees them as essentially bourgeois art forms". For all that, he might take some delight in the latest home for his remarkable story.

● *Trainspotting* is at the Ambassadors Theatre (0171 836 6111/1171) until Jan 27

## Jokers and wild cards are aces

Any journalist will tell you that if something happens once it is an event, and if it happens twice it is a trend; but we must not read too much into the fact that the past year has produced two good comedies about poker schools. What this surely proves is that the game is a good excuse for bringing restless, maverick and therefore interesting men into a room to expose their psyches, indulge in entertaining banter and maybe teach us a little about cards.

Patrick Marber's *Dealer's Choice* offered all that, plus the odd insight into loneliness and gambling. William Gaminara's emphasis in *According to Hoyle* is even more directly linked with the game that gave us the phrase "poker-face". Whether his people are playing boyish pranks on

### According to Hoyle

each other as solemnly as they can, or dealing in life-ies, the subject is the same. It is deception.

Another characteristic of poker, especially useful to British dramatists, seems to be its relative classlessness. Marber had a lot of fun with Mugsy, a gormless waiter with a place in the card school run by his proprietor. Here, an upmarket writer called Chris (Nick Dunning) cheerfully cohabits with someone he would snub on the street: Peter-Hugo Daly's Eddie, a pop musician who looks as if he has mislaid a couple of teeth and half his brains while escaping from the monkey-house.

## Brilliance undimmed

The Glass Menagerie Comedy

sense that long walkway gives of the isolation in which Tom, Laura and their mother exist.

In his role as narrator, Walden begins by sounding oddly curt, blurring out his criticism of 1930s America. But it is a voice held tight to contain the intensity of feeling and, in his closing speech, having steeled himself to be selfish and escape the

Gaminara cannot resist sending up this character and his strangely successful sexual exploits; but you forgive him, for he has a gift for funny dialogue and does not lose sight of the tribulations of the other gamblers. Trevor Cooper's Kevin, a rough, roly-poly actor who specialises in playing cops, turns out to be a surreptitious cross-dresser. Jonathan Coy's sly, self-indulgent Clive assumes the latest of his wives is bluffing him, poker-style, when she threatens to leave. Robert Glenister's Micky, envious of Chris's growing fame and secretly unsure of his sexuality, ends up committing suicide.

I am not giving away the play's own secrets by revealing this, for it opens after Micky's death and keeps cutting back to poker nights of old. That might cause confusion. But

there is only one problem with Gaminara's handling of the central deception, which involves Eddie's seduction of Clive's teenage daughter and Clive's mistaken belief that Eddie has bedded his wife. That is not a lack of clarity or tension, but a failure to convince us that Clive is almost murderously jealous.

In 1992 Gaminara wrote *Back up the Hearses and let them Sniff the Flowers*, a play about hucksters indebted to David Mamet's *Glenrory Glen Ross*. His fascination with males at play in *According to Hoyle* suggests the same influence; yet the ending, which unpretentiously proclaims the virtues of honesty and maturity, shows his mind is his own.

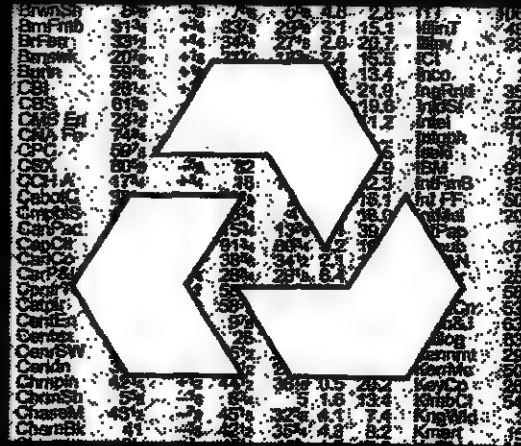
BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

imprisoning home, his words are choked with tears. Zoe Wanamaker looks young as Amanda, whose fussy attention is driving her son out of the house and sending her timid daughter deeper into a protective shell. But this is because we have become accustomed to seeing her played as a woman on the downward slope of life, whereas she need not be beyond her mid-40s. Wanamaker shows us how stifling Amanda's over-protective care has grown to be, yet never makes her remotely a grotesque, nor even a figure of fun.

In her wonder at the gentleman caller's kindly words (a sure performance from Mark Dexter), and in her shocked discovery that he will not call again, Claire Skinner's Laura is heart-catchingly poignant in a tough, delicate masterpiece.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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## CHOICE 1

**Sam Mendes opens his new staging of *Sondheim's Company***

VENUE: From tonight at the Donmar Warehouse



## CHOICE 2

**Zubin Mehta conducts a tribute to Sir John Barbirolli**

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall

## THE TIMES ARTS

## OPERA

**The ENO's *La Belle Vivette* is a fun show for Christmas — but a long way from Offenbach**



## POP

**A compelling live show from Curtis Stigers dispels the gloom of his last album**

## LONDON

**COMPANY** Opening night for *Company* at the Donmar Warehouse. The musical, based on the 1970 Broadway production, tells the story of a group of friends in New York City who come to terms with their lives and relationships.

**MAESTRO CONDUCTS MAESTRO** Zubin Mehta leads the London Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 1, "In a Beautiful Mood".

**THREE TALL WOMEN** Final night for the play at the Donmar Warehouse. The play, by Caryl Churchill, tells the story of three women who are part of a theatrical production.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** The Donmar Warehouse's production of Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol* is a festive and heartwarming performance.

**CYRANO** The Donmar Warehouse's production of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* is a powerful and moving performance.

**THE JUNGLE BOOK** The Donmar Warehouse's production of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* is a classic and beloved performance.

**THE MASTER BUILDER** The Donmar Warehouse's production of Henrik Ibsen's *The Master Builder* is a powerful and moving performance.

**THE WIND** The Donmar Warehouse's production of Lorraine Hansberry's *The Wind* is a powerful and moving performance.

**THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV** The Donmar Warehouse's production of Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* is a powerful and moving performance.

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Iris Anderson

## ELSEWHERE

**BIRMINGHAM** Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra offer both a premiere and a familiar baritone tonight. Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* opens the programme.

**ST ANDREWS AND GLASGOW** Travel your way to the heart of Austria tonight with a programme of Mozart in Salzburg. Overton's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* is the first of two operas.

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**HOUSE FULL, returns only** Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

**THE JUNGLE BOOK** Tim Supple directs the adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's story. Young Balu, the Cub, is played by a young actor.

**THE MASTER BUILDER** Peter Hall's production of Henrik Ibsen's play is a powerful and moving performance.

**THE WIND** Lorraine Hansberry's play is a powerful and moving performance.

**THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV** Fyodor Dostoevsky's play is a powerful and moving performance.

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## LONDON GALLERIES

**British Museum** Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster. Paintings from National Trust Houses.

**National Portrait Gallery** Richard and Maria Crowley. Paintings from National Trust Houses.

**Royal Academy** Paintings from National Trust Houses.

**Scottish National Gallery** Paintings from National Trust Houses.

**Victoria and Albert Museum** Paintings from National Trust Houses.

**Wellcome Collection** Paintings from National Trust Houses.

**Whitechapel Gallery** Paintings from National Trust Houses.

**Woolwich Arts Centre** Paintings from National Trust Houses.

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## Offenbach the musical, by Frayn

## OPERA

**La Belle Vivette**  
Coliseum

A double-revolve whizzes around almost continuously, ferrying John Gutter's sets in and out in dizzying counter-motion — those bits of them that aren't flying in and out, that is. There are many costume changes, courtesy of Deirdre Clancy, and the decor could be described as Second-Empire. Lavish filtered through British Sensibility (it's all a bit lean). The huge English National Opera company is as busy as the sets, their activity brilliantly organised by the director Ian Judge, a past master at this sort of thing.

Having openly surrendered to amplification of the voices, the Coliseum has done it extremely well — infinitely better than in last season's ill-starred *Mahagonny* — and it is quite rightly mentioned in the programme. If you do it, flaunt it, though in fact you can hardly tell it's happening. But it's a useless precaution: either singers sing words or they don't, and microphones can't change that. But the ENO has got itself a whizzbang, spectacular Christmas show to rival anything in the West End. If only it did not have Offenbach's name attached to it.

You have to admire Michael Frayn's ingenuity in providing a new script to fit the music of *La Belle Vivette*. In brief, it is about mounting an opera. Vivette is the Hortense Schneider-style star as Helen; her protector M. Ploc is Meneau; the impresario M. Calcut is Calchas, the composer M. Berger (geddit?) is Paris, etc. If a number cannot be made to fit the new scenario, then it can be presented as an extract from the show — dashed



Lesley Garrett sings extremely well as Vivette but lacks earthiness, displaying instead an Ivor Novello-style charm

clever. The complete script is printed in the programme after the manner of the Royal Court, a useful precaution in that you can at least relish later those Frayn witcidisms that you cannot hear. There are one or two oddities. Much play was made in advance of West End audiences being unable to understand classical allusions, this being the main reason for the new script, but they are expected to recognise a duet from Meyerbeer's *Huguenots* in one of two interpolations that should be cut forthwith. (The first act takes a long time to get going.) There is also some

heavy-breathing in the programme about the Franco-Prussian War, which is not followed through, mercifully. The real problem is the watering down of the leading roles. Offenbach's Helen is a royal nymphomaniac; Frayn's Vivette is a romantic lead, and so is his Paris. In the original the ultimate macho-tenor joke. It was said to see Lesley Garrett's potential earthiness watered down to mere Ivor Novello-style charm, and Neil Archer as just a juvenile lead, though both sing extremely well.

The original script is a masterpiece of smutty innuendo, but there is nothing here to bring a blush to the cheek of the most demure maiden aunt, unless it be half a dozen living statues, the girls topless, the boys near bottomless. Instead we get Pavarotti jokes, surtitles jokes, Brummidge jokes, and the whole thing is about as sexy as cold blanch-mange. A timeless, ultra-sophisticated masterpiece of social satire is reduced to the level of early evening television light entertainment. But it is well conducted by James Holmes — the first two notes of the famous waltz are the wildest event of the whole evening — and there are some

engaging performances: Rosemary Ashe (Zouzzou) manages to bring a welcome whiff of vulgarity to proceedings, and both Christopher Booth-Jones (Agamemnon) and Andrew Shore (Calchas) get every word across. Ryland Davies and Francis Egerton are sadly underused. I promised myself not to mention Scottish Opera's recent *Belle Hélène*, brilliantly translated by John Wells, but that was the real thing, and this is not. It's a perfectly good Christmas show as long as you forget Offenbach.

RODNEY MILNES

## Yesterday's man very much alive and kicking

Records clearly wanted more of the stylish but smooth-cut ballads that turned the first album into precious metal. Stigers, who built his reputation as a hard-gigging bar-room survivor, felt he had earned the opportunity to stretch himself.

Stigers's celebrity still allows him on to a stage with Van Morrison and a certain sax-mad American president — as happened in Ireland

recently — but, in a hit-free zone, his London gig atmosphere was less fervid than that of three years ago. But the artist turned those reduced circumstances into a victory.

netic stagecraft and the help of a drum-light band. The audience cheered the first note of any song from the debut album, such as *Never Saw a Miracle*, *You're All that Matters to Me* and the introductory hit that remains his theme tune, *I Wonder Why*. But, to illustrate the versatility that Arista must now encourage, there was a spiky and soulful take on Nick Lowe's *Peace, Love and Understanding*, which was included on the 30 million-selling soundtrack to *The Bodyguard*. There is more to this man than he has been allowed to hear.

PAUL SEXTON

## ENTERTAINMENTS

## ART GALLERIES

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## ■ BUILDINGS

Is it worth  
£170 million?  
Doubts grow  
about the Rogers  
"crystal palace"  
at the South Bank

## ■ OFFER

Take advantage  
of our Theatre  
Club prices for  
the BBC festival  
of music by  
Charles Ives

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ MUSIC

The admirable  
Swedish mezzo  
Anne Sofie von  
Otter returns  
to the classic  
repertoire

## ■ YOUNG ARTS

A Chilean band  
and a Birmingham  
gallery bring  
a healing  
touch to  
children in need

Children paint  
the pain away

Hilary Finch on an art-and-music  
treatment that is helping young  
hospital patients in Birmingham

There is a strange, claw-like scratching and rattling. But goats don't have claws. Cloven hoofs: pieces of horn and hoof. That's right: 15 or 20 of them, clicking together in a maraca-like shaker, with the sound of a pan-pipe wheeling above. Not easy to identify when you are four years old: even harder when illness and trauma have deprived you of speech.

A sharp-eyed education officer at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery spotted a rainforest project at the city's Children's Hospital School; caught an echo from his gallery's own current exhibition of chicanismo, Irish and Mexican art; and linked the two together through the music-making of the Chilean band Caliche.

For him the specialist art therapist or school of overt cognitive therapy. "All art provides children with the opportunity to see things from different perspectives, and the changing of perception is central to healing." In both the painting and music-making involved in this project, he has watched the growth of self-esteem and confidence as the uniqueness of the individual child is thrown into relief within group activity.

Sue Cowley, head teacher of the school, meanwhile observes the effect of the project on school work, and even the role it plays in the hospital's own ability to assess and refer children who need the most urgent and intensive help. "You'd think that there couldn't be a worse scenario than having to go to school in hospital — but far from wanting to eradicate the memory, even the most difficult children have come back to visit us when they've been passing by."

All this is flight-of-the-condor music to the ears of the ebullient Richard Gagos, education officer of the Ikon Gallery. He stands at the centre of The Circle of the Ancestors, a magic ring of chairs encrusted with beads, dried fruit, bones, madonnas, candles — a dark and jewelled emblem of Mexico and of the close and collective strength of women's lives in chicano culture. The exhibit is by Amalia Mesa-Bains, and is one which never fails to seduce the visiting children.

"To be able to take part in these experiences, then to have their own paintings hung not only in the wards, but on the walls of our gallery, convinces these children of their worth. They know they justify all the work we put in for them. The gallery becomes like a church in a secular age: a quiet space, full of wonder, where they can be absorbed, can concentrate and yes — be healed."

● The Children's Hospital School is in Ladywood, Middlesbrough, Birmingham (0121-454 4851). Distant Relations: A dialogue between chicano, Irish and Mexican artists runs until January 20 at the Ikon Gallery, John Bright Street, Birmingham (0121-643 0708). Caliche Music and Education can be contacted at Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (0121-446 5440).

Richard Rogers's plans for the South Bank raise more questions than answers, says Marcus Binney

## Crystal palace turns opaque

Sir Richard Rogers's proposed "crystal palace" on the South Bank could be the most dazzlingly beautiful modern building in London. But as the project progresses (the proposals and business plan are being submitted to the Arts Council this week), more and more people are asking the same question: just what is it for?

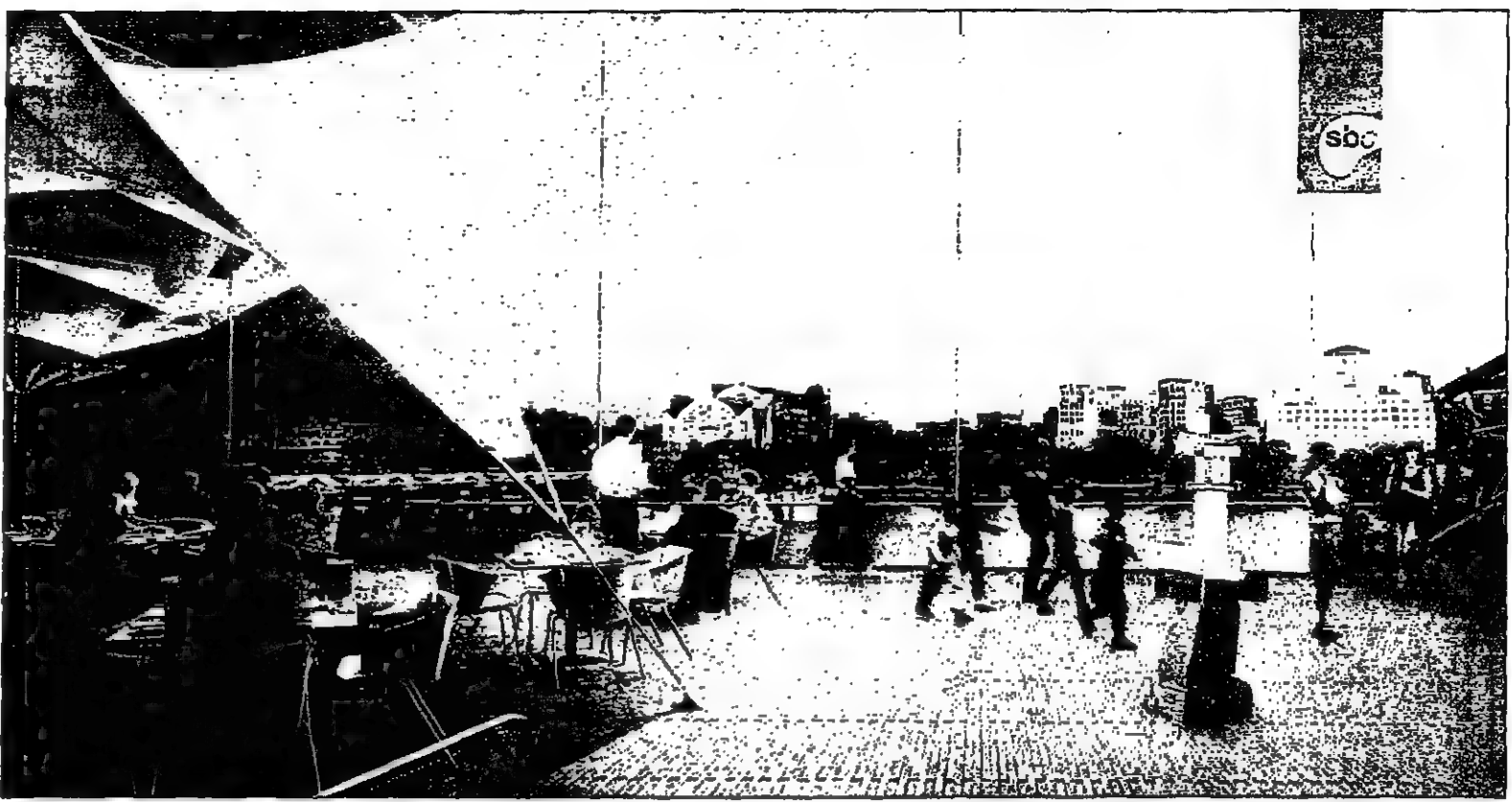
This is not a new opera house or a major new art gallery, but a protective canopy thrown over two of London's most despised modern buildings: the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Hayward Gallery. You could even claim it is just a high-tech version of the Brent Cross Shopping Centre, full of retail stores, restaurants and corporate entertainment facilities which ought to be self-financing. Indeed, in Terry Farrell's earlier South Bank scheme, they were.

But Jo Kennedy, the project director, says the sum needed to complete all work by 2001, the 50th anniversary of the Festival Hall, is now £170 million. "This includes projected annual increases in building costs, which we believe will climb steadily in London because of the number of Millennium projects," she says.

At 1995 prices, the project splits into £84 million for the crystal palace and £35 million for the quite separate restoration of the Festival Hall, which is being carried out by architects Allies and Morrison and is already producing ravishing results inside. In the breakdown of the crystal palace costs, the glass envelope actually represents remarkably good value at £15 million, given its enormous size. "We have the foundations, the base levels and much of the internal structure," Rogers says.

Next comes work on the Queen Elizabeth Hall, costed at £8 million. The stage is to be adapted for dance and lyric theatre as well as music, with facilities for flying scenery, sidings and an orchestra pit. The Hayward will be provided with a new self-contained exhibition gallery, meaning it no longer has to close between shows. Most significant of all will be a wholly new auditorium in front of the Festival Hall, with seating ranging from 300 to 580 seats.

Who will pay? Arts Council



A computer-generated image of the glass-covered café and gallery Richard Rogers envisages for the South Bank. But will it be warm enough?

lottery funding is likely to be required for a hefty 75 per cent of the cost. Rogers (who is also vice-chairman of the Arts Council) passionately believes that the funding should be nearer 100 per cent. "There are just too many lottery projects competing for the same matching funds," he argues. But Nicholas Snowman, the South Bank director, is gearing up for a fund-raising drive. A South Bank Foundation is being set up with the aim of securing business sponsorship.

The crystal palace has been billed as a new foyer for all the South Bank arts venues, teeming with attractive restaurants, cafés and shops. The management has produced a computer image "under the canopy", showing dinner in a high-level café overlooking the Thames. Women sit in shoulderless evening dresses and men in shirtsleeves. But for how much of the year will it be warm enough for this to happen?

Rogers simply states that the average temperature inside will be three degrees higher than Bordeaux, and adds: "The best analogy is with one of the great stations where you can comfortably sit

out at a café all the year round." But how many of us would actually want to sit down to dinner on the concourse at Waterloo Station on a winter's evening?

Andy Sedgwick of engineers Ove Arup is doing the environmental studies. He says: "The predominant climate in Britain is, in mid-season, far from extreme." He also acknowledges that from October to May people take a coat with them when they go out in the evening. To me this is a critical distinction. Concertgoers and exhibition visitors want to leave their coats in the cloakroom and will circulate less freely in the crystal palace if they have to collect their coats before entering it in the interval.

The key protection, say the architects, is from wind and rain. Cafés and restaurants on indoor terraces can be provided economically with under-floor or overhead heating, or the kind of gas burners one finds in French cafés, says

Sedgwick. The likelihood is that they will soon all be building their own glass boxes under the glass canopy. This does not trouble Rogers. "The South Bank is awful now because it is so dank."

In summer a glass roof structure could obviously be as stifling as a greenhouse. The Rogers/Arup solution is to install the glazing used in the covered courtyards at the Louvre in Paris and the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, which has ingenious invisible shading built into the glazing sandwich. On the crystal palace roof the shading will be 75 to 80 per cent, quite enough, say the architects, when coupled with open windows and doors, to provide a cool breeze on the hottest day.

Here is another critical point. The beauty of the Waterloo trainshed, or any great 19th-century conservatory, lies substantially in the use of a single skin of clear glass. Nothing provides so much exhilaration as the sight of an

intense blue sky all above you. The more filters and shades are introduced, the more that magic of an all-over glass roof can be diminished.

Rogers also sees the brutalist exteriors transformed by cascading and climbing plants. For the shops, Rogers wants to see "a range of crafts, including the best musical instrument-makers". This surely means low rents, in contrast to the South Bank's aim of increasing revenue (Kennedy expects that "when the crystal palace is fully operational, rents will increase our revenues by 20 per cent"). Rogers also talks of "shops selling CDs, tapes, videos — the future is in electronic gadgetry".

But wait a minute. This sounds just like a Virgin megastore. Should we not be offering the whole site to Richard Branson on a 99-year peppercorn lease and asking him to finance it?

Whatever criticisms may be made, Rogers has two axes to point. First he has a proven ability as a crowd-puller. The Pompidou Centre continues to attract seven million visitors a year — more than the British Museum. Rogers intends the crystal palace as a new focus

for the youth of London, open from 9am to midnight, where thousands can congregate in the festival atmosphere of a non-stop party.

His second axe, and potential trump card, is that the crystal palace could be the most beautiful building of the millennium, adventurous in shape and structure, elegant in line, and breathtaking in internal expanse. Night lighting will make it a beacon across the Thames.

Rogers is taking full advantage of the new great age of structural engineering in which we live. Ove Arup, his engineering partner, are among the two or three top practices in the world, and with each refinement of the roof of the crystal palace becomes more sensational and daring. The original wave has become a saddle, nowhere quite symmetrical so that the silhouette will constantly change. The new double curvature will provide extra bracing.

In the Arts Council lottery fund, Rogers has potentially the most compliant backer an architect could wish for. With it comes the opportunity to produce a masterpiece. But he needs a more exact brief than has so far been provided.

It could  
well be  
dazzlingly  
beautiful,  
but what is  
it for?

## All about Ives

THE TIMES  
THEATRE  
CLUB

Ives's *The Unanswered Question*, the Robert Browning Overture and the *Holidays* Symphony. The event marks the beginning of a special Ives festival, comprising seven concerts, two films, talks and an exhibition. Club members can buy two tickets for £20 for the first concert, and receive a copy of the Phaidon Press book *American Pioneers* (worth £14.99), which profiles Ives's life and work. To book, send a cheque, payable to the BBC Symphony Orchestra, together with details of your full name, address and Theatre Club membership number to: Lisa Owen-Jones, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Freepost LON 3048, London W9 2BR. To find out more about the festival, ring the BBC SO on 0171-765 2954.

## A HAPPIER NEW YEAR

CENTRE STAGE, the theatre restaurant in London's West End, is offering the chance to see the New Year in style. For £69 per person, Theatre Club members can enjoy a four-course dinner with a bottle of wine each, a glass of champagne at midnight and cabaret provided by West End artists. To book, telephone Centre Stage on 0800 335588. All reservations must be pre-paid and cancellations cannot be accepted after Dec 22.

## HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8TL, or Theatre Club, P.O. 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

## OTHER SHOWS

LONDON  
Sadler's Wells  
Dec 22, 23, 26, 27  
● TICKETS £15 (normally £25) for London City Ballet's production of Prokofiev's *Cinderella* on Dec 22 (7.30pm), Dec 23 and Dec 27 (2.30pm, 7.30pm) and Dec 26 (2.30pm). Tel 0171-713 6000

Lyric Theatre  
Dec 13, 14 & 19  
● SAVE £5 on tickets (normally £12.50) to see comedian Harry Hill. Tel 0181 742 2311

Brinsford Swan  
Dec 13-15  
● TWO for the price of one (normally £9) to see *The Streets of Dublin*. Tel 0171-274 6470

PERTH  
Perth Theatre Company  
Dec 13-15  
● TWO for the price of one (normally £9.50 to £12) for 2.30pm and 7.30pm performances of *Cinderella*. Tel 01738 621051

MIDDLESBROUGH  
Lide Theatre  
Dec 7-Jan 7  
● TWO for the price of one (normally £5.99 to £7.99) for evening performances of *Aladdin*. Tel 01642 83181

HANLEY  
Theatre Royal  
Dec 13-Jan 6  
● SAVE £1.50 on tickets (normally £8.50 to £9.50) for performances (except Fridays, Saturdays, Christmas Eve and Bank Holiday) of *Cinderella*. Tel 01242 572573

CHELTENHAM  
Everyman Theatre  
Jan 2-20  
● SAVE £2 on stall and circle seats (normally £7.50 - £13) for *The Wind in The Willows*. Tel 01242 572573

HORSHAM  
Arts Centre  
Dec 14-Jan 6  
● TWO for the price of one (normally £5 - £8) for evening performances of *Mother Goose*. Tel 01403 269699

SWANSEA  
Grand Theatre  
Jan 24-28  
● TWO for the price of one (normally £10 - £12.50) for the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Tel 01792 475715

Creamy touch  
before the broth

## CONCERT

COE/Blomstedt  
Barbican



Herbert Blomstedt: showing his musicianship

Anne Sofie von Otter has been making excursions into increasingly varied repertory with mixed success, so Monday's opportunity to hear her return to the music with which she established her appeal was welcome. Accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Herbert Blomstedt, the Swedish mezzo-soprano sang three of Orpheus's arias from Gluck's opera, in versions by Berlioz and Saint-Saëns.

Von Otter was best in *Amour, viens rendre à mon âme*, in which she unleashed timbre of brilliance and found the character's fiery resolve. She was unfazed by virtuosos' decorations and cadenzas added by Pauline Viardot. Earlier, she had difficulty evoking the character "cold" on the concert platform, and although she brought her trademark creamy tone to *Pai perdu mon Euridice*, this performance missed some of the character's anguish.

Her opening *Quel nouveau ciel* lacked a wonderment to match the gentle orchestration. Blomstedt proved a sensitive accompanist, stressing even in these 19th-century editions Gluck's classicism. The hastily offered encore, one of Alcina's arias from Haydn's *Orlando paladino*, took the mezzo back to her debut role, and she sang the sorceress's lines with wicked humour. Indeed, she had been scheduled to sing Haydn arias, but there were substitu-

tions to the programme: Haydn's Symphony No 67 in F replaced his 100th. Brahms's Fourth Symphony was played in place of his Second, and Blomstedt conducted instead of Nikolaus Harnoncourt.

Blomstedt disclosed real musicianship in the Haydn, shaping the symphony with a spare, fluid beat that might have shown up weak ensemble in a lesser orchestra. These players, however, gave a spirited account on conventional instruments. Blomstedt's tempos were questionable only in the last movement, where frantic outer sections framed a slow Adagio whose cantabile marking was ignored.

The Brahms received a turgid performance in which every note was stressed, every phrase suffocated. Even the dance-like third movement was heavy, and although Blomstedt's holding back of the finale's passacaglia almost justified itself, in the opening movements he seemed to do little more than stir the Brahmsian broth.

JOHN ALLISON

Win a voucher worth £150  
from Marks & Spencer

Today *The Times*, continuing our *Twelve Days of Christmas* competition, brings you the chance to win ten vouchers from Marks & Spencer worth £150 each. Although in the traditional carol your true love would send you ten lords a-leaping on the tenth day of Christmas, your favourite newspaper decided ten vouchers from one of your favourite high street stores would be a more appropriate prize.

You can choose anything you like, of course, but we decided to illustrate the £150 voucher with the ever-popular M & S hamper. Among other goodies, it contains: Bucks Fizz, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, mini

sticks, iced Christmas cake and Christmas pudding with cider and rum, all-butter Scottish shortbread assortment, red cherry compote, and chocolatey crunch biscuits.

HOW TO ENTER  
Simply answer the following question:  
*On the feast of which saint did King  
Wenceslas look out?*  
Call our competition hotline below with your answer. The line is open until midnight tonight. The first correct entries chosen at random will win. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

MARKS & SPENCER

CALL OUR HOTLINE ON 0891 66 55 34







# Sellers put their faith in the hammer

**Rachel Kelly finds benefits all round in property auctions**

In the past, auctions were chiefly for spivs and property speculators looking for deals. Now, growing numbers of homebuyers are on the hunt for repossessions. One family's tragedy, it seems, can become another's bargain basement home or Christmas present.

Figures from the Lord Chancellor's Department show that repossessions are running at around 1,000 a week. While lenders initially aim to sell through estate agents, property which has failed or proved difficult to sell ends up at auction.

While overall trade is down and Chesterton's has suspended its auction division until business picks up, the choice of repossessed property is still plentiful, a glance at an auctioneer's catalogue shows. Such was the number of lots submitted in a sale this Monday by Allsop & Co, that it was spread over two days.

Agents say that while the budget did nothing directly to help the market, additional money in some pockets through inheritance tax changes could tempt more private investors into the auction rooms. Low interest rates on capital on deposit are encouraging people to seek other forms of investment.

There are at least two sales before Christmas: 123 London and Home Counties properties will be sold at noon tomorrow, at the New Connaught Rooms, Kingsway, London, while a second Hambro Countrywide sale of 39 lots in East Anglia is at the Knights' Hill Hotel, King's Lynn, on Friday.

David Sandeman from

Farwise, which publishes a guide to property auctions in London, calculates that 9,000 lots have been sold this year.

Chris Glynn, senior auctioneer at Barnard Marcus, says many of these new buyers are "do-it-yourself developers" — private homeowners looking for their dream property to renovate. Robin Dean of GA Property says: "Over the past two or three years there have been more owner-occupiers buying through auctions."

And small-time investors are also turning to auctions. "They buy a house, put a tenant in and it provides a better rate of return than a building society investment."

If the client has changed, then so has the type of property on offer. The past few years have seen, for the first time, modern family homes entering the market in significant numbers. "In the 1980s you'd never see a nice normal house at auction," says Mr Dean.

Some "normal" houses can be repossessions in disguise. Auctioneers have become sensitive to the stigma of selling repossessed property, aware that buyers may be squeamish about capitalising on the misery of others. Stickle & Kent no longer includes details of whether a house has been sold by order of the mortgagees when describing a property in its auction list. "The private seller doesn't want to put his or her house in a catalogue of repossessions, and we're achieving better prices as a result. Repossessions aren't going to last forever," says a spokesman. Clearly, would-be repossessed buyers need to do their homework.

Are there really bargains on



In Hambro Countrywide's auctions this week (clockwise from top left): a flat in NW6 (guide £40,000), a house in Boston, Lincs (£20,000), a semi in Dereham, Norfolk (£20,000), and a flat-conversion in Surrey (£40,000)

offer? Auctioneers say that most auctioned houses sell for about 90 per cent of the open market price. This can represent a significant saving, particularly on more expensive properties.

But be warned. There may be financial complications in living in a repossessed property. For example, an initial credit-card application is likely to be refused because of the credit history at that address. Lenders often sell properties with structural or legal problems through auctions as a last resort. You may end up

spending on professional advice what you saved on the purchase price.

But auctions are still the best place to pick up quirkier properties that perhaps are difficult to value conventionally. For example, in its September catalogue Barnard Marcus offered an old church hall and a former telephone exchange, both with residential planning permission, although both failed to reach their reserves of £80,000 and £10,750 respectively.

Auctions can also be a good source of farmhouses, espe-

cially those based in the shires, and not all are derelict ruins. Strutt & Parker recently auctioned Blake's Farmhouse, a Grade II listed building and dairy on 3½ acres of land in Somerset, for its guide price of just £170,000.

For sellers the auction method offers a great deal of security: he is guaranteed a definite result within a short period of time, with no possibility of the purchaser withdrawing.

Selling is also relatively cheap. The fee to place a property in a catalogue is

usually about £200 plus VAT, while the auction house will spend on average between £20,000 and £30,000 advertising each sale.

Catalogues are usually distributed four weeks in advance to anyone interested in buying. Check local papers for details of local sales. Contact Farwise for a list of London auctions (0171-720 5000).

Lenders such as the Halifax, Nationwide and the Council of Mortgage Lenders do not distribute lists of repossessed properties. They sell through agents and auction houses.

## BIDDING FOR BEGINNERS

A PROBLEM for potential buyers at auctions is that the property they may have travelled many miles to buy has already been sold. The annoyance that this situation causes has led to new guidelines for auctioneers in England and Wales, issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

Their advice is to register your interest in a property prior to the auction. Then, in theory, the auctioneer will contact you if a pre-auction sale is likely.

The new guidelines arose after a recent auction in central London for a portfolio of commercial property, where an auctioneer declared a lot had been sold prior to auction.

One of the potential buyers, Oxford estate agent Paul Charles, had rung the auctioneer the afternoon before to be told all the property was still available. He complained, writing to his professional magazine to air his anger and suggesting the two professional bodies issue a code of practice to discourage sales before the auction.

Auctioneers estimate that about 10 per cent of lots are sold before auction. Most auctioneers try to avoid the problem by having a list of prospective buyers who have registered their interest, so that they can let them know.

Gary Murphy, senior residential property auctioneer for Allsop & Co in central London, says: "You have to bear in mind that the duty of the auctioneer is to his client. We always advise that the property will be sold by auction unless previously sold or withdrawn."

The point on inconvenience was discussed by the RICS and ISVA auctioneering committees and in a letter to the same magazine the two chairmen issued the new guidelines.

The new guidelines say: "The very nature of auctions and the duty of the auctioneer to his vendor client dictates that this occurrence cannot be completely removed. However, we would advocate that auctioneers alert prospective purchasers to the possibility of a vendor selling at any time before the property is offered for sale in the room."

"When this occurs auctioneers should use their best and reasonable endeavours to notify all parties known to be interested."

JON MACGOWAN

## Village-style development gets royal seal of approval

**Christine Webb reports on a princely project in Somerset**

The Prince of Wales has given his blessing to a second new village after his success with Poundbury in Dorset.

Planning permission was granted last week for Field Farm, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. The scheme is the culmination of seven years' planning by the Duchy of Cornwall and a local farmer, David Vagg, and it will eventually add 360 homes to the little town, boosting its 7,000 population by 15 per cent.

The Prince of Wales has taken his pioneering approach to housing a step further by asking a volume house-builder to redesign its standard homes to suit the area's character.

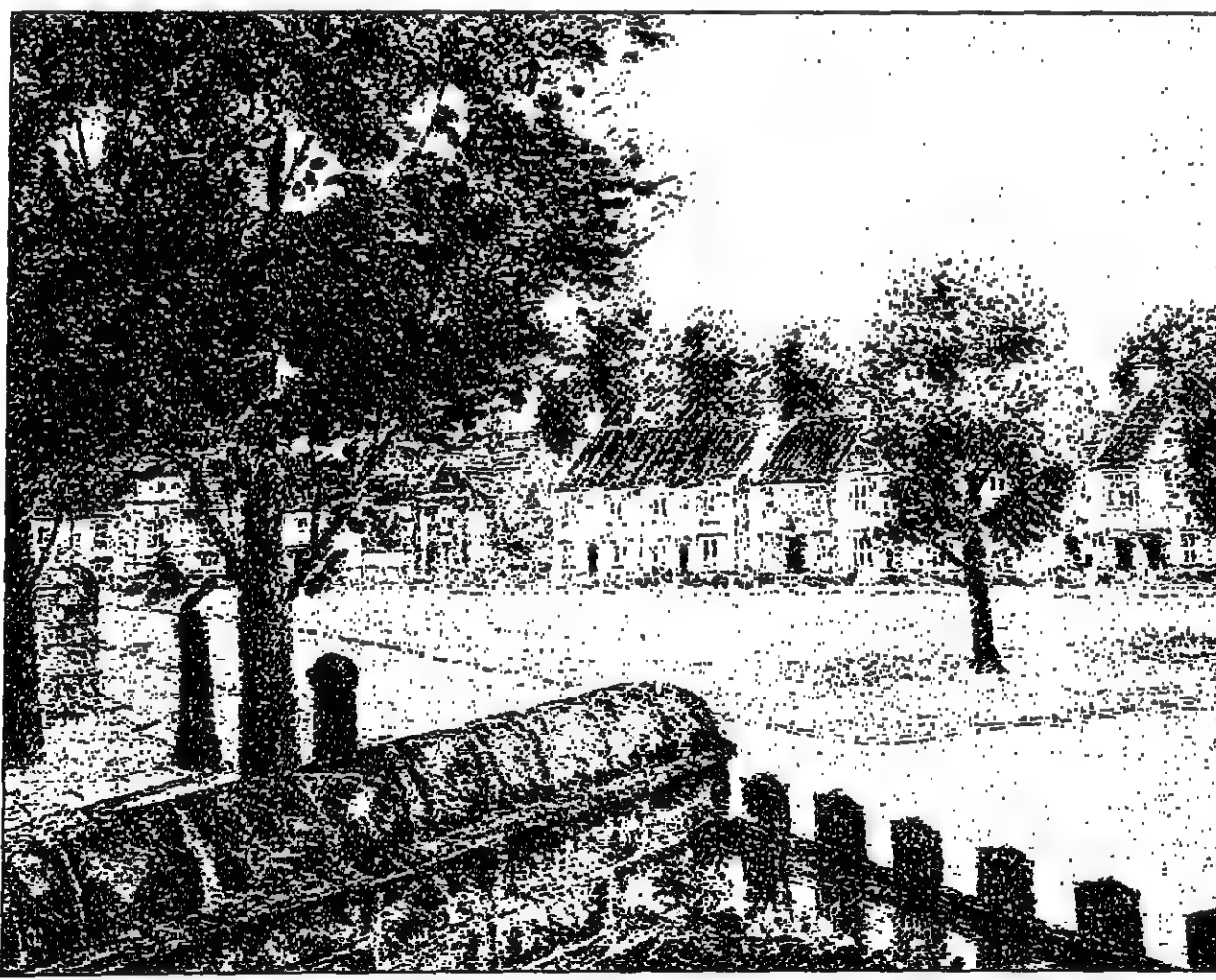
Bloor Homes of Swindon will use natural local materials for the homes in Shepton Mallet. The company builds 1,500 houses a year but this will be the first time it has altered its designs to suit a particular area.

Building will start in April and prices will range from about £60,000 for a three-bedroom semi to around £135,000 for a four-bedroom detached house. The development will eventually be worth about £25 million and will include 60 low-cost homes and some terraced housing.

The Duchy's stake in the 43-acre site was just 2.9 acres, the rest belonging to Mr Vagg. But he went into partnership with the Duchy team, which lent its resources and experience.

"It was an entirely voluntary joint venture because I wanted something good here that fitted into the locality," says Mr Vagg. "The Duchy seemed to have the people with the expertise and know-how."

The Duchy's share of the profits will be 6.8 per cent. Winchester architect Robert Adam drew up a master plan for the village, including a primary school, open spaces, toddler play areas, footpaths and a shop. The team wants the community to look as if it has evolved over many years, so a landscape survey of the site was carried out, and 60 mature trees will be preserved.



Artist's impression from the original master-plan of the village green at Field Farm, Shepton Mallet

Mr Adam wrote a design guide, based on Shepton Mallet's traditional architecture, which stipulates that slate, clay tiles, render and sandstone from the local Doulting Quarry will be used for the houses. Mr Vagg has even bought a redundant chapel at nearby Prestleigh and will move it stone by stone to its new site.

The landowners wrote aesthetics into the guidelines, wove them into covenants for when the land was conveyed, and worked with Bloor before it even bought the ten acres on which it will build the 100 houses of the first phase.

Bloor adapted its standard house designs, simplifying elevations, which yielded savings that paid for other features such as real chimneys, and created three new designs. The company presented its plans to the Prince of Wales for approval.

"The planners wouldn't have been as stringent with their requirements as the Duchy was," says Melvyn King, managing director of the company's architects,

Oldfield King of Southampton. "When we first worked on our scheme with the Duchy, there was a difference in both parties' aspirations. We were able to demonstrate that we could adapt to fulfil those aspirations. The Duchy is aiming the gun and we're just firing the bullets."

"There are seven basic house plans but each has at least four variations, and they've been designed for their location in the street scene," Mr King says. "A house in a prominent position will have prominent features. Some houses have real chimneys, some are gabled. There are also traditional houses which have Georgian-type windows, a doll's house look."

"Gardens will be enclosed rather than open plan, there are no integral garages visible at the front of properties and we don't let them dominate."

"Local vernacular originated from lack of transport. These days builders can easily move materials like bricks around the country. I can see why they say they'll build the same in Macclesfield as in

Portsmouth. Using natural materials costs 15 to 20 per cent more," says Mr King. "This development will be part of Shepton Mallet rather than a bolted-on estate, and I wish every developer gave freedom to achieve this. Many landowners are guided by profit motive, whereas the Prince of Wales has taken a more philosophical line and brought to bear his own views, which I think are highly commendable."

"I don't think the public are as perceptive. The windows at Field Farm are not the large suburban windows that people find desirable, for example. I'm not sure the public appreciates the additional benefits and will pay the extra costs."

The Duchy is quick to praise the Vagg family for its desire to safeguard the quality of the development once the local authority had earmarked the land for housing in 1990. Mr Vagg admits the early planning will eventually cost him a great deal. "But we hope the quality of the design will

reflect in the value we get for the land," he says. "Field Farm means a lot to me and I didn't want to take the money and run; it was worth investing time. The farm is my life. My grandfather was a tenant farmer here before my father bought it in 1948 and we've no intention of moving out."

"There will be satisfaction if we create nice homes for people, if the development looks nice, and if it is accepted by the local community. I don't like modern concrete estates. I like the older style of building. We were very much of a like mind with the Duchy."

"The first phase will set the tone for the rest of the development. If we get this right the rest will follow. That's why it's so important." If the new designs prove popular, Bloor may incorporate the three new house designs in its future standard house types. Regional manager John Lusty says: "We had to amalgamate the Duchy's guidelines with our blueprint as a general house builder. These houses will have kerb appeal — we'll see if they have salability."

## Let there be light

**Nick Nuttall on chasing city criminals out of the shadows**

High-quality street lighting can cut muggings, burglaries and car theft on crime-ridden streets and estates by nearly half, scientists have found. Researchers believe the first crucial step to making the nation's streets safer lies in erecting lights which allow pedestrians to recognise a face at 15 metres.

Better street lighting also cuts the fear of crime by increasing the social, sexual and age mix of people out at night time, making an area more cosmopolitan. The research has important implications for home owners whose house values have been hit by rising crime and for those who bought Georgian or Victorian properties in run-down parts of London and other cities during the late 1980s, where improvements to their areas have been hit by recession.

The finding has come from studies carried out in the West Midlands and London by Kate Painter from the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University. Dr Painter says surveys of people living in crime-prone communities show that three key features of their areas make them fearful of crime and contribute to the success of criminals. These are signs of disorder such as graffiti, boarded-up shops and groups of unruly youths; deserted streets that make pedestrians feel vulnerable; and a dark or dimly lit environment where threats cannot be seen or avoided.

To measure the importance of street lighting in this equation, Dr Painter carried out surveys and questionnaires before and after improvements. She found dramatic increases in the number of people out on the streets after dark once lighting had been improved. This helped to make everyone in the community, including women and the elderly, feel safer by making them believe that someone responsible would come to their aid if they were attacked.

"Good street lighting also seems to cut down on disorderly behaviour among youths," says Dr Painter, adding that crime does not appear to simply move elsewhere after lighting improvements. Upgrading the lighting on one estate she studied even appeared to cause a fall in crime on a neighbouring unit estate. "Crime went down there by 3 per cent, so we got a diffusion of benefits," she says.

In Hammersmith and Fulham, West London, where better lighting was installed, the number of men on the street rose by 101 per cent and the number of women by 71 per cent, researchers found.

Yet despite such encouraging results, Dr Norman Os-

justice system and it is surely time for a change," he says. "The haemorrhage of public funds into expensive justice for offenders who have already done the dirty deed needs to be stopped."

Dr Davidson says most police forces see crime prevention as a sideline, because officers' promotion prospects are geared to catching criminals rather than cutting down on crime.

"Community safety needs to be seen not just as a cheap sticking-plaster for some serious wounds, but a concerted effort by citizens, businesses and public agencies to provide an environment where crime is less likely," he says.

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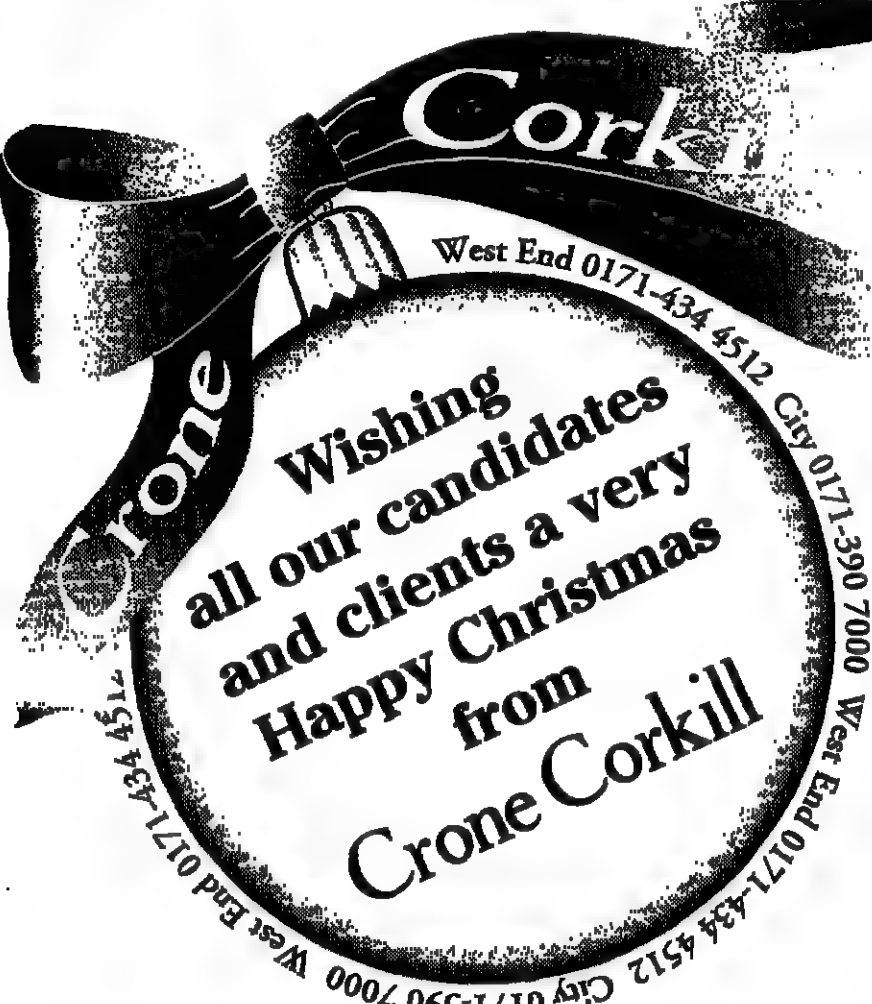
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# McMillan harnesses split personality

Brian McMillan is a confusing character. One day he is batting, deadpan, stolid, every inch the cool hand, and the next he is bowling with overt aggression that seems barely under control. He is like two different cricketers, two contrasting men. "Maybe I'm a bit schizo," he mused yesterday, "but I don't think either one is really me."

So what is one to make of this bear-like figure who, almost unnoticed, has become the most influential all-rounder in the world? For he is not what he seems. Beneath the veneer of unruly hair, untamed language and immense physical presence, there is a man of intelligence and gentility, a man to whom the England team offers increasing respect.

The thought of English batsmen being drawn to a giant whose bowling appears to revolve around pitching short and talking rough may seem far-fetched. Yet even Michael Atherton, who prefers never to mix with opponents during a match, smiles with wry appreciation when McMillan's name is mentioned.

"Fine cricketer," is Atherton's assessment. "He's the friendliest of their guys, always first into our room with a beer; but with the ball, he comes nearer to unsettling me than most because his verbal aren't really nasty, they make me want to laugh. Then I look up after he's given me this mouthful and he's winking at me. It has almost upset my concentration once or twice and I think he knows it."

He does, and he will try again at Kingsmead, Durban, where the third Test begins tomorrow. "Atherton and I have some interesting battles," McMillan said. "That sort of thing motivates me, brings more out of my game. You have to follow your instincts and I do what I feel is best for me. So far, I've always kept it under control."

Is the macho thing an act, the charade of a pantomime villain?

## Alan Lee talks to the South African rated the best all-rounder in Test match cricket

"You can say that it's calculating," he said. It is easy to believe, too, for now he is reclining on his hotel bed, tolerantly supervising the ginger-haired toddler, Josh, who is his pride and joy. The gentle giant personified.

The end of South Africa's isolation came not a moment too soon for McMillan, who was already nearing his thirties. He has maximised his chances and, in 20 Tests to date, scored 1,137 runs at an average of 45 and taken 58 wickets at 28 apiece. His career, though, might never have reached such heights. Indeed, it might never have begun at all, for McMillan was born on the wrong side of the tracks.

He is the son of a miner, and at the small-town school that he attended in Carletonville, 50 miles west of Johannesburg, cricket was an afterthought. McMillan also played rugby, remarkably as a hooker — "I was a good bit smaller then" — and the unpromising arena of his upbringing left its legacy. "Life in a mining town never seemed rough to me, but there were no silver spoons around so maybe we grew up quicker and harder than those at the posh schools."

He climbed through the ranks of Transvaal club cricket and made his first-class debut at 21. Three years later, he almost gave up the game. Ironically, his career was saved by a trip to England and a spell in the Lancashire League. "I was ready to pack it all up and go into business but I went to play for Ramsbottom for a summer and Robin Jackman made me an offer to join Western

Province. My first thought was that I had always wanted to live in Cape Town, so I gave it a go."

There have been no more misgivings. Although qualified as a science teacher, and employed by a computer company, his desire now is to make full use of his talents while he can. He will be 32 next week, but is considering a return to county cricket, ten years after his single season with Warwickshire.

"If I'm going to do it, it's got to be the next two years," he said. "The routine doesn't put me off and I'm sure I could handle it so long as I am used as an all-rounder rather than a strike bowler." McMillan fancies playing in London, which is good news for Surrey, who have the vacancy and the resources. He will not come cheap, but then neither should he.

"Compare our rewards with those of the top rugby players," he said. "Rugby is 80 minutes of hard work, a Test match is five days of unrelenting pressure. A man earns his money at this level." Especially a man like McMillan, who is forever involved. When he is not batting or bowling, he is fielding either at slip or silly point.

He relishes the involvement, but acknowledges the stress on his 15-stone frame. It is said that he is always the first man on the physiotherapist's table, always complaining of aches and strains. Sometimes, it is hard to get him onto the field, but, once there, nobody could compete more wholeheartedly.

Does it flatter him to be thought the best in the world? "Who is to decide such a thing?" he asked. "Yet it is important to me to be one of the best, yes." How long can he go on, this impressive man of bewildering extremes and enigmatic humour? "My real goal now is our next tour of England, in 1996," he said. "It means a lot to me to be around for that." Oddly enough, he will find a welcome from plenty of grudging admirers if he is.



McMillan, a late entrant into Test cricket, has seized his opportunity with impressive vigour

## England A thankful for Pooley's resistance to pressure

FROM PAT GIBSON  
IN PESHAWAR

ENGLAND A were not complaining about Pakistan's pitches, unimpaired by overcast, tampering last night. They had almost matched the levels of incompetence that they have been mounting about throughout the third and final five-day international as, in the space of two hours, they came close to undoing all the good work of the past seven weeks on tour.

They were saved from a chastening defeat that would have given Pakistan A a share of the series by an unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 49 between Jason Pooley and Dean Headley, two players not originally selected for the touring party but who batted with greater composure than some of their more senior colleagues.

John Emburey, the cricket manager, did not mince his words. "We did not apply ourselves to the situation as well as we should have done as professional cricketers," he said. "I have not said anything to the players yet, but I can assure you that if a county side had performed like that a few words would have been flying around the dressing-room."

"I just want to calm down a little, sit back and think about what I am going to say to them. I don't want to be ultra-critical because the important thing is that the boys did salvage a draw and hold on to the series, but two hours like

that can cost you a Test match and a Test series."

The England players might have guessed that they were in for a roasting when they arrived on a gloriously sunny morning to find burning coals in tin pans being placed on the pitch to dry damp spots caused by heavy dew seeping through inadequate tarpaulin covers; and this on a ground where England are scheduled to play two of their World Cup matches.

When play did start, 100 minutes late, they got safely past lunch 30 runs behind but with eight second-innings wickets in hand. They then lost six for 62 in an afternoon of escalating panic. It did not seem to matter too much when Udal, the second night-watchman, pulled a catch to mid-wicket, but, when Gallian was leg-before after batting almost three hours for 58, the alarm bells were ringing.

Hussain, the captain, hit a frenzied 29 off 25 balls before going for a single that was hardly there and discovering that McGrath had not left his crease at the other end. On a day that kept low, McGrath was given out caught behind as he tried to withdraw his bat and Phipps was caught at the wicket attempting a cut.

It was just as well that Pooley is such a forthright character. His 38 runs were just as valuable as the 50 minutes Headley stayed with him before the umpires offered them the light 100 minutes before the scheduled close with England A 90 ahead.

"It was the one time we'd been under a little pressure; the one time the players had to show some character and technique, and everything we set out to achieve was almost lost," Emburey said. No doubt, Raymond Illingworth will be told.

## TCCB set to act in national interest

BY SIMON WILDE

IT HAD been hoped that great changes to the way that cricket is played in Great Britain would be endorsed at Lord's this week. A single body would supervise the game at all levels, the particular benefit of the England team, which would have beneath it a refined feeder system, and the game's coffers, which — with a national plan in place — would be swollen by funds from the Sports Council and the National Lottery.

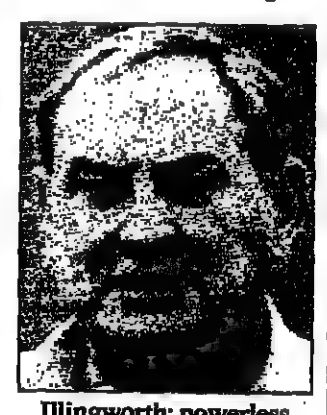
Because of the sheer scale of the task and the anxiety of all parties to get the thing right, the English Cricket Board will not now be operating for several months at least. Nevertheless, it is expected that several decisions will be made at the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) winter meeting in the next two days that will strengthen the hand of the national team.

Two of the biggest bugbears of the county cricket's existence are the number of overtures that the administrators force them to cram into each day of championship cricket and the demanding intrusion of an AXA Equity & Law League match between the third and fourth days of a Britannia Assurance county championship fixture.

The former may survive, but the latter will surely not. Already, counties are availing themselves of the opportunity that the regulations permit — to start a championship match at a "festival" venue on a Wednesday rather than a Thursday and to complete it before the players switch their attentions to the demands of the limited-overs game.

Others may point to the inevitability of early finishes and the financial hardships that blank Saturdays would create, but experience is rapidly exposing the weakness of this argument. When the first three days of a championship fixture are on weekdays, there is valuable advertising and corporate entertainment to be sold.

What would most please Michael Atherton and Raymond Illingworth would be



Illingworth: powerless

ending the ambiguity surrounding the qualification rules that has been exposed by the Andrew Symonds case. Inevitably, with the debate about a new governing body fresh in their minds, county executives will want to scrutinise the whole structure of the county system, from the duration of limited-overs matches to points-scoring in championship fixtures.

After three years, four-day championship cricket is now so widely accepted that the long-arranged review, recently conducted by the TCCB's cricket committee under David Acland and the conclusions of which are to be put before delegates this week, was able to focus on refining the product rather than deciding whether it should be continued with.

Conditions in the seaside town of Wollongong were cold and windy; a far cry from the Caribbean but no excuse for the rout. "I can't recall seeing us bat worse than that," Richardson said. At least he could partially exonerate himself: he was top scorer with 30. Roland Holder, the man who replaced the disgruntled Brian

that can cost you a Test match and a Test series."

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Lara in the touring party, made 22.

The Academy side contained six players who had already played first-class cricket and the strongest impression was made by the pair of left-arm opening bowlers. Mark Harriott, who cannot get into South Australia's one-day team, took the wickets of Phil Simmons, Jimmy Adams and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, and Brett Swain removed Stuart Williams, as the West Indians stood to 20 for four.

### PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

#### IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 1995-96

#### CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS - DECEMBER 1995)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended that the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering the Bill (under the above name or short title) should consider certain amendments to the Bill the purposes of which are collectively summarised as follows:

1. Two schemes (the "St. Pancras Approach: Promoters' Developed Scheme and Associated Works" and the "St. Pancras Approach: Modified Baxter Scheme and Associated Works") for the approach of the rail link to the proposed London terminus at St. Pancras are as follows:

(a) Works in the London boroughs of Camden and Islington provided for in each Scheme and being alternative to those proposed in the Bill, comprising:

Works Nos. 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G, 1H, 1I, 1J, 1K, 1L, 1M, 1N, 1O, 1P, 1Q, 1R, 1S, 1T, 1U, 1V, 1W, 1X, 1Y, 1Z, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2J, 2K, 2L, 2M, 2N, 2O, 2P, 2Q, 2R, 2S, 2T, 2U, 2V, 2W, 2X, 2Y, 2Z, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3I, 3J, 3K, 3L, 3M, 3N, 3O, 3P, 3Q, 3R, 3S, 3T, 3U, 3V, 3W, 3X, 3Y, 3Z, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4I, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4M, 4N, 4O, 4P, 4Q, 4R, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4V, 4W, 4X, 4Y, 4Z, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5I, 5J, 5K, 5L, 5M, 5N, 5O, 5P, 5Q, 5R, 5S, 5T, 5U, 5V, 5W, 5X, 5Y, 5Z, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E, 6F, 6G, 6H, 6I, 6J, 6K, 6L, 6M, 6N, 6O, 6P, 6Q, 6R, 6S, 6T, 6U, 6V, 6W, 6X, 6Y, 6Z, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G, 7H, 7I, 7J, 7K, 7L, 7M, 7N, 7O, 7P, 7Q, 7R, 7S, 7T, 7U, 7V, 7W, 7X, 7Y, 7Z, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8I, 8J, 8K, 8L, 8M, 8N, 8O, 8P, 8Q, 8R, 8S, 8T, 8U, 8V, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 8Z, 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9I, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M, 9N, 9O, 9P, 9Q, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9U, 9V, 9W, 9X, 9Y, 9Z, 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F, 10G, 10H, 10I, 10J, 10K, 10L, 10M, 10N, 10O, 10P, 10Q, 10R, 10S, 10T, 10U, 10V, 10W, 10X, 10Y, 10Z, 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 11E, 11F, 11G, 11H, 11I, 11J, 11K, 11L, 11M, 11N, 11O, 11P, 11Q, 11R, 11S, 11T, 11U, 11V, 11W, 11X, 11Y, 11Z, 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12F, 12G, 12H, 12I, 12J, 12K, 12L, 12M, 12N, 12O, 12P, 12Q, 12R, 12S, 12T, 12U, 12V, 12W, 12X, 12Y, 12Z, 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K, 13L, 13M, 13N, 13O, 13P, 13Q, 13R, 13S, 13T, 13U, 13V, 13W, 13X, 13Y, 13Z, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 14E, 14F, 14G, 14H, 14I, 14J, 14K, 14L, 14M, 14N, 14O, 14P, 14Q, 14R, 14S, 14T, 14U, 14V, 14W, 14X, 14Y, 14Z, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 15E, 15F, 15G, 15H, 15I, 15J, 15K, 15L, 15M, 15N, 15O, 15P, 15Q, 15R, 15S, 15T, 15U, 15V, 15W, 15X, 15Y, 15Z, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, 16F, 16G, 16H, 16I, 16J, 16K, 16L, 16M, 16N, 16O, 16P, 16Q, 16R, 16S, 16T, 16U, 16V, 16W, 16X, 16Y, 16Z, 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D, 17E, 17F, 17G, 17H, 17I, 17J, 17K, 17L, 17M, 17N, 17O, 17P, 17Q, 17R, 17S, 17T, 17U, 17V, 17W, 17X, 17Y, 17Z, 18A, 18B, 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33M, 33N, 33O, 33P, 33Q, 33R, 33S, 33T, 33U, 33V, 33W, 33X, 33Y, 33Z, 34A, 34B, 34C, 34D, 34E, 34F, 34G, 34H, 34I, 34J, 34K, 34L, 34M, 34N, 34O, 34P, 34Q, 34R, 34S, 34T, 34U, 34V, 34W, 34X, 34Y, 34Z, 35A, 35B, 35C, 35D, 35E, 35F, 35G, 35H, 35I, 35J, 35K, 35L, 35M, 35N, 35O, 35P, 35Q, 35R, 35S, 35T, 35U, 35V, 35W, 35X, 35Y, 35Z, 36A, 36B, 36C, 36D, 36E, 36F, 36G, 36H, 36I, 36J, 36K, 36L, 36M, 36N, 36O, 36P, 36Q, 36R, 36S, 36T, 36U, 36V, 36W, 36X, 36Y, 36Z, 37A, 37B, 37C, 37D, 37E, 37F, 37G, 37H, 37I, 37J, 37K, 37L, 37M, 37N, 37O, 37P, 37Q, 37R, 37S, 37T, 37U, 37V, 37W, 37X, 37Y, 37Z, 38A, 38B, 38C, 38D, 38E, 38F, 38G, 38H, 38I, 38J, 38K, 38L, 38M, 38N, 38O, 38P, 38Q, 38R, 38S, 38T, 38U, 38V, 38W, 38X, 38Y, 38Z, 39A, 39B, 39C, 39D, 39E, 39F, 39G, 39H, 39I, 39J, 39K, 39L, 39M, 39N, 39O, 39P, 39Q, 39R, 39S, 39T, 39U, 39V, 39W, 39X, 39Y, 39Z, 40A, 40B, 40C, 40D, 40E, 40F, 40G, 40H, 40I, 40J, 40K, 40L, 40M, 40N, 40O, 40P, 40Q, 40R, 40S, 40T, 40U, 40V, 40W, 40X, 40Y, 40Z, 41A, 41B, 41C, 41D, 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48W, 48X, 48Y, 48Z, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, 49E, 49F, 49G, 49H, 49I, 49J, 49K, 49L, 49M, 49N, 49O, 49P, 49Q, 49R, 49S, 49T, 49U, 49V, 49W, 49X, 49Y, 49Z, 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D, 50E, 50F, 50G, 50H, 50I, 50J, 50K, 50L, 50M, 50N, 50O, 50P, 50Q, 50R, 50S, 50T, 50U, 50V, 50W, 50X, 50Y, 50Z, 51A, 51B, 51C, 51D, 51E, 51F, 51G, 51H, 51I, 51J, 51K, 51L, 51M, 51N, 51O, 51P, 51Q, 51R, 51S, 51T, 51U, 51V, 51W, 51X, 51Y, 51Z, 52A, 52B, 52C, 52D, 52E, 52F, 52G, 52H, 52I, 52J, 52K, 52L, 52M, 52N, 52O, 52P, 52Q, 52R, 52S, 52T, 52U, 52V, 52W, 52X, 52Y, 52Z, 53A, 53B, 53C, 53D, 53E, 53F, 53G, 53H, 53I, 53J, 53K, 53L, 53M, 53N, 53O, 53P, 53Q, 53R, 53S, 53T, 53U, 53V, 53W, 53X, 53Y, 53Z, 54A, 54B, 54C, 54D, 54E, 54F, 54G, 54H, 54I, 54J, 54K, 54L, 54M, 54N, 54O, 54P, 54Q, 54R, 54S, 54T, 54U, 54V, 54W, 54X, 54Y, 54Z, 55A, 55B, 55C, 55D, 55E, 55F, 55G, 55H, 55I, 55J, 55K,



## Chairman of BHB's industry committee under pressure to resign

## Future of McCloy put under scrutiny

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE future of Matthew McCloy within the British Horseracing Board (BHB) was thrown into doubt last night after a leading racing figure questioned his fitness to represent the sport because of his much publicised arrest in the United States.

Peter Walwyn, chairman of the Lambourn Trainers Association, said: "A lot of people have felt worried by this and there has been no suitable explanation or apology."

"Although he has done very well chairing the BHB's industry committee, is his conduct really suitable? Is he really fit to be industry chair-

RICHARD EVANS

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man? A lot of us feel the same way and are worried he is going to get a permanent place on the BHB as Michael Darnell's replacement."

"There are big queries about him. After all, one cannot say it is an isolated incident of strange behaviour," Walwyn added.

McCloy, 48, was handcuffed by the FBI, was taken to an American Airlines flight to New York after he had been drinking. The Newbury-based lawyer, who was travelling to the Breeders' Cup at Belmont Park, subsequently spent two



Matthew McCloy, supported by his wife, Pru, in New York in October, faces an uncertain future with the BHB

nights in cells and pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. Two charges of assault and resisting arrest were dropped. After his release, McCloy claimed his arrest had been due to a mix up by immigration officials who thought he was a West Indian "yardie".

Walwyn's remarks, which reflect the views of many within racing, came only 24 hours after McCloy's behaviour was the subject of informal discussion by Jockey Club members after a full meeting at Portman Square. It had been thought his conduct would be raised formally — with queries as to whether he

had brought racing into disrepute. However, in the end "nobody wanted to be seen to be publicly putting the knife in," one Jockey Club insider said yesterday.

After a hotly contested election earlier this year, McCloy was elected as chairman of the BHB's industry committee,

whose membership includes trainers and breeders. He was co-opted to the full BHB board and had been favourite to succeed Michael Darnell when he steps down in June as one of the committee's three directors on the board.

Significantly, the BHB's annual industry forum is being

staged tomorrow and Walwyn's intervention will increase the pressure on McCloy to consider his future.

"I discuss racing politics with a lot of people and they felt someone had to say this before the industry committee forum on Thursday. It needed saying. Maybe there is a very good explanation for everything that happened — we have all made fools of ourselves from time to time — but this is a responsible job and one has got to be seen to be fairly responsible," Walwyn said.

"All we are thinking about is the good of the industry and to make sure it is properly represented. It is up to his conscience. When he gets quizzed by the industry committee, as he will do now, he must make a decision. One wants to get the whole thing cleared up. It has been rather glossed over."

McCloy faces a tough choice. Although he has, until now, least retained the confidence of a majority of industry committee members, he will be fully aware of the whispering campaign against him and the scarcely concealed opposition of breeders and trainers.

His critics acknowledge that he has been an excellent chairman of the industry committee but insist he should have at least offered to resign after the unfortunate saga in the United States. In all probability, they say, his resignation would have been refused and that would have been the end of the matter. Now he may have to offer his resignation — and have it accepted.

## Jones explains lasting appeal of the Turf

By RICHARD EVANS

WHY does racing, and betting on horses, continue to be so popular? Many have asked but few have provided such a wonderful answer as that presented to the Gimcrack Dinner in York last night by Tom Jones, the Newmarket trainer.

In a gem of a speech, overflowing with wit and wisdom, Jones said: "I believe the answer lies in the variety and colour of the sport and of the characters involved in it. The monotony of the roulette table can't hold a candle to the rich variety of our racesours. We have everything on offer from the wall of death at Wolverhampton to the Ebor course on the Knavesmire and from the gentle undulations of Hexham and Epsom to the galloping billiard tables of Newbury and Yarmouth."

"We race on the flat over distances from five furlongs to 24 miles, and over obstacles from

two miles to 4½ miles and now we even have flat races for steeplechasers. So it is not surprising that we produced equine heroes so different in character as Locksong and Desert Orchid to Lamarr and Further Flight and, somewhere in the middle, the handicapper's nightmare, dear old Vindaloo."

Jones, who took out a trainers' licence in 1951, continued: "Look at our jockeys. Their individual efforts still defy the efforts of the Jockey Club disciplinary committee to turn out a bunch of automatons running on rails — each with six shots a piece in his locker."

"On the word 'discount' we have everything from springheeled Jack [Frankie] Dettori to a sight I saw in Yarmouth a year or two ago — two veteran jockeys after a long and hard fought battle over a mile and three quarters, each collapsing in the unsaddling enclosure under a mound of lead and leather, and having to be assisted into the weighing room."

"Trainers vary from the boozily ebullient to the deadpan cerebral who, after winning a good race, stand in the unsaddling enclosure looking as though there has been a death in the family. And now, we even have the absolute knockout lady practitioners — and when I say knockout, they come in both meanings of the word, as one or two jockeys could tell you."

"Our owners — well, we have slaves like myself have to be particularly careful on this subject. If we know nothing else, at least we know on which side our bread is buttered. Old Ernie Davey once gave it as his opinion that it was the bloody owners that wrecked racing — and he ended up training for no one but himself."

He added: "I can't leave the subject of owners without mention of Sheikh Hamdan [Al-Maktoum] — the only man between me and the referee. Late this year, a journalist announced that I was retiring at the end of the season. I hastened to assure Sheikh Hamdan

that this was not so. 'I know it's not,' he said. 'Because you will only retire when I tell you to.' The veteran American trainer, Jim Ryan, once told me no man ever committed suicide on the eve of retiring, and when I had a decent two-year-old in his barn. And now I'm engaged in trying to remember and pronounce the name of Sheikh Hamdan's 1996 juveniles."

Aside from the good-humoured banter, Jones chided those who suggest racing should divorce itself from hunting. "Let us make no mistake, the threat from well-intentioned but ignorant people is not just to hunting but to all forms of sport involving animals, as the burning of fences at Liverpool, and attacks on fishermen and shooting people demonstrate."

"If you are connected with any of these sports, it is no good burying your head in the sand and pretending it has no connection with the others. Don't knock the other sports. Support them, or you may be next on the list."

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**Maguire back**  
ADRIAN MAGUIRE, who has been out of action since falling from Hatcham Boy at Ascot on November 17, hopes to return to the saddle at the same track on Saturday.  
His governor, David Nicholson, has entries in three races, including Putty Road in the Long Walk Hurdle.

**BANGOR SPECIALISTS**  
TRAINERS: C Broad, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; C Brooks, 8 from 15, 40.0%; M Hammond, 7 from 18, 38.9%; K Bailey, 7 from 23, 30.4%; D Nicholson, 9 from 30, 30.0%; C Mann, 3 from 11, 27.3%; JOCKEYS: R Durnley, 26 winners from 83 rides, 31.2%; G Bradley, 6 from 28, 21.4%; W Martin, 7 from 34, 20.6%; C Llewellyn, 8 from 38, 20.5%; R Guest, 5 from 26, 19.2%; A Roche, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

**BANGOR**  
THUNDERER  
12.30 Hong Kong Designer, 1.00 Waterford Castle, 1.30 Phoenix, 2.00 Hebrides, 2.30 Frontiers (LIGHT) (nap), 3.00 Keeno, 3.30 The Stewch.  
The Times racing Handicapper's top rating: 30 STEADFAST ELITE.

**2.00 ST HELENS FORD NOVICES CHASE**  
(23.95; 2m 110yd) (10)  
1-41 HERRING 16 (5.5) D Nicholson 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
4-44 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
5-45 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
6-46 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
7-47 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
8-48 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
9-49 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

**2.30 RED COAT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE**  
(22.95; 2m 110yd) (11)  
1-41 HERRING 16 (5.5) D Nicholson 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
4-44 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
5-45 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
6-46 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
7-47 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
8-48 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
9-49 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

**2.15 EDIMBOURGH HANDICAP CHASE**  
(25.20; 2m 110yd) (8 runners)  
1-41 HERRING 16 (5.5) D Nicholson 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
4-44 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
5-45 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
6-46 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
7-47 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
8-48 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
9-49 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

**2.45 HENRIETTA KNIGHT BIRTHDAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE**  
(23.17; 2m 110yd) (7 runners)  
1-41 HERRING 16 (5.5) D Nicholson 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
4-44 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
5-45 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
6-46 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
7-47 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
8-48 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
9-49 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

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**1.00 WYNNSTAY HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB HANDICAP CHASE**  
(23.74; 2m 110yd) (8)  
1-41 HERRING 16 (5.5) D Nicholson 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
4-44 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
5-45 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
6-46 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
7-47 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
8-48 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
9-49 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

**3.00 MAEFEN HANDICAP CHASE**  
(24.31; 2m 110yd) (12)  
1-41 HERRING 16 (5.5) D Nicholson 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
4-44 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
5-45 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
6-46 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
7-47 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
8-48 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
9-49 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

**3.30 YELLOW COLLAR INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE**  
(21.71; 2m 110yd) (17)  
1-41 HERRING 16 (5.5) D Nicholson 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
4-44 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
5-45 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
6-46 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
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9-49 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

**3.15 GEMINI HANDICAP HURDLE**  
(23.82; 2m 110yd) (10 runners)  
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2-42 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
3-43 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50  
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**3.45 SECRETARY OF STATE**  
(24.11; 2m 110yd) (10 runners)  
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**1.30 ASTURY WHEN HANDICAP HURDLE**  
(24.82; 3m) (8)  
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**3.00 THE SUTHER**  
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**3.45 SECRETARY OF STATE**  
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**3.15 GEMINI HANDICAP HURDLE**  
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10-50 BIRD 16 (5.5) M Parnell 5-11-4; R Durnley 50

**Folkstone**  
Going: good  
12.30 1m 110yd hurdle, 1.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 2.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 2.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 3.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 3.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 4.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 4.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 5.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 5.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 6.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 6.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 7.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 7.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 8.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 8.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 9.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 9.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 10.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 10.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 11.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 11.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 12.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 12.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 13.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 13.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 14.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 14.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 15.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 15.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 16.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 16.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 17.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 17.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 18.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 18.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 19.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 19.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 20.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 20.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 21.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 21.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 22.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 22.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 23.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 23.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 24.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 24.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 25.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 25.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 26.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 26.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 27.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 27.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 28.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 28.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 29.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 29.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 30.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 30.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 31.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 31.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 32.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 32.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 33.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 33.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 34.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 34.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 35.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 35.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 36.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 36.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 37.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 37.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 38.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 38.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 39.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 39.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 40.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 40.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 41.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 41.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 42.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 42.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 43.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 43.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 44.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 44.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 45.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 45.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 46.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 46.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 47.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 47.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 48.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 48.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 49.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 49.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 50.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 50.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 51.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 51.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 52.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 52.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 53.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 53.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 54.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 54.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 55.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 55.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 56.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 56.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 57.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 57.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 58.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 58.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 59.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 59.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 60.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 60.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 61.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 61.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 62.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 62.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 63.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 63.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 64.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 64.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 65.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 65.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 66.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 66.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 67.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 67.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 68.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 68.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 69.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 69.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 70.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 70.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 71.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 71.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 72.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 72.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 73.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 73.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 74.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 74.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 75.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 75.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 76.00 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 76.30 Maiden Maiden (2.00), 77.00



# Charlton's worn force faces examination by Holland's young masters

## Ireland foundering on rock of ages

BY ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE pulse races ahead of the play-off between Ireland and Holland for the sixteenth and last place in the European championship finals in England next year.

Anfield has witnessed this type of winner-takes-all tension before, not least in the final moments of the 1989 league championship, when Arsenal wrenched the title from Liverpool in front of the Kop. Yet nothing can test heart, nerve and sinew more than the contest tonight, when men of both sides will be reaching for a chance that may never come their way again.

This, of course, is particularly true of the ageing Irish: half of their team will not see 30 again. Jack Charlton, their manager and famous fisherman, whose cussed will has coaxed them to an unprecedented decade of World Cup and European championship appearances, knows that he has never landed anything bigger than the prize he seeks in Liverpool. In terms of skill, of youth, of sheer footballing technique, his team is out of its depth.

This, of course, does not mean that Ireland will lose. It has never meant that in Charlton's time, and the tide of 19,000 followers crossing the Irish Sea, to fill almost half of the stadium, will be singing long before time: "You'll never beat the Irish!"

The retort, from an expected 14,000 supporters in orange, will be that, with Dutch courage, with the class of Ajax, maybe Holland will.

Achieving neutrality will be nearly impossible. Everyone who enters Anfield will have a preference because of the polarised nature of the way that Ireland and Holland approach their game.

Ireland play it long. They belt the living daylight out of the ball, they pressurise and they pulverise, and, as the refrain suggests, they neither recognise defeat nor acknowledge those blessed with greater gifts.

Yet there is a submissive hint in the team that Charlton has chosen for tonight. He has doubled up on the full backs, playing Jeff Kenna and Terry Phelan in front of Gary Kelly and Denis Irwin, no doubt in fear of the balanced trickery offered by Marc Overmars on the right and Glenn Helder on the left.

They might successfully entrap the wing play of the Dutch, but this is where Holland's strategic planning may hold sway. For, down the centre, urged forward by Danny Blind, the captain, they have a teenage duo, Patrick Kluivert and Clarence Seedorf, eager and willing to test the worn fulcrum of Ireland.

Paul McGrath, 36, but a



Charlton, left, the Ireland manager, and Townsend discuss tactics during training at Queensferry yesterday. Photograph: Chris Louffe

year younger than the wily John Aldridge, has played seven seasons on borrowed time. He is, rightly, a legend in the Emerald Isle, a player advised to quit because of chronic knee damage at Manchester United, whose subsequent years at Aston Villa, and whose resilience in reaching 80 caps for Ireland, defy medical opinion.

He seldom visits the training ground, perspires instead in the weights room, yet his reading of the play, his ability to make two strides do what others may require in five, are indeed worthy of one last shot at a top tournament.

Fears for McGrath can be set aside, but what would the doctors say of John Sheridan? A comparative strapping of 31, a man capable of matching the silken touch of the Dutch, he is the shield intended to protect McGrath and Phil Babb.

Sheridan's knee was operated on six weeks ago; since then, he has played 14 minutes for Sheffield Wednesday. "It's not a problem," he said. "I know I can last a full game."

Can he really? The Irish spirit will be as willing as Sheridan, but we shall know after 90 minutes, maybe after 120 minutes, perhaps after a

sudden-death goal or even the dreaded penalties, how long Ireland can resist a Dutch team built around the all-conquering Ajax youth brigade.

Ireland, without Roy Keane and Steve Staunton (injured), and Niall Quinn (suspended) leave out the Liverpool pair,

Jason McAteer and Mark Kennedy, but hope that the experience of Tony Casciaro and Aldridge can capitalise on invading the space that Holland's adventurous pressing game gambles on leaving between their defenders and goalkeeper.

"Their passion is our prob-

lem," Blind said, acknowledging that all the advantages in skill that his players possess will be run to ground unless they match the desire, the sheer effort, that Ireland will undoubtedly produce.

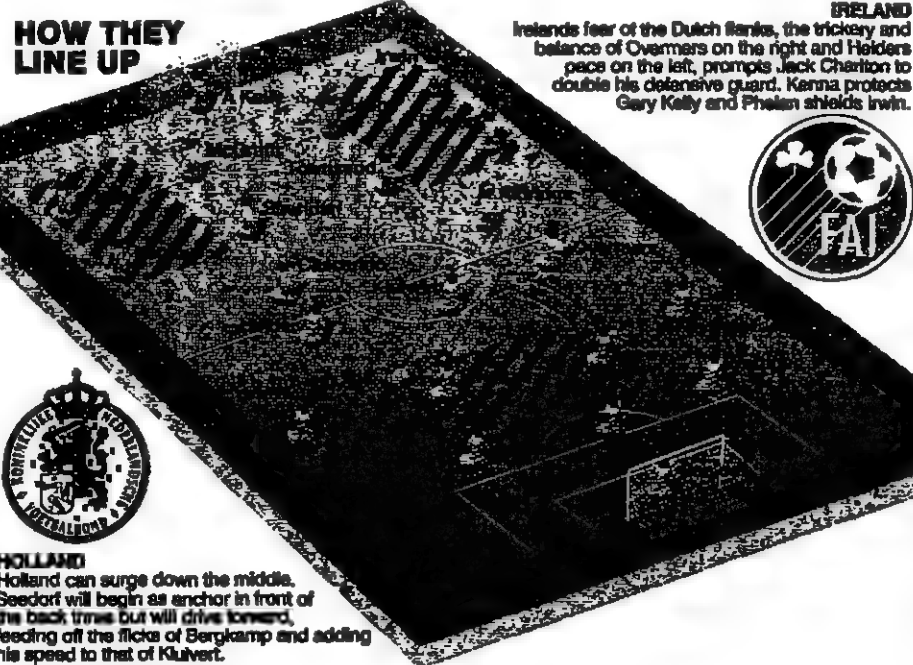
If it is a long contest, if Ireland cannot somehow impose their force and score

early on, then surely the advantage in Dutch years will prevail.

The physical strain that has enabled Ireland to compete above themselves for years somehow made it appear that they sweated pure Guinness: infirmity now suggests a watering down of that power, and unless the Dutch freeze, which their youngsters have done before, then the best that Ireland will experience is the comradeship and spirit that flows from their supporters.

In Orlando last year, at the World Cup, no matter that Holland beat Ireland; the street parties, the revelries, were led by the Irish. You could age a year in a night parrying with them, but at Anfield there will be a sober and assured message.

It is customary for participating sides to be granted VIP tickets for honoured guests. Ireland sent theirs to the Football Association of Northern Ireland, whose vice-president, Ivan Marshall, treasurer, Eddie Barry, and team manager, Bryan Hamilton, will sit at Anfield, as guests of the south. One only hopes that the politicians and the religious leaders can take heed of the message.



HOLLAND  
Holland can surge down the middle. Seedorf will begin as anchor in front of the back three but will drive forward, feeding off the flicks of Bergkamp and adding his speed to that of Kluivert.

## Sport selling its soul in pursuit of cheap thrills

OK, bloke goes to the doctor, and the doctor says, OK. I've got some good news and some bad news, and the bloke says, OK, doc, give me the bad... Hello? Hello? You seem disconcerted. What's the problem? Look, this column has been in existence for a jolly long time, so I thought instead of writing about sport, I'd tell you a couple of dirty jokes.

I don't understand. You seem to think this is inappropriate. But I always write about sport, and the point is that the paper might pull in a few more punters if I told some cheap jokes, and anyway, I fancy an easy week. So what's the problem?

After all, I am only following the precedent set by the England cricket team. They were involved in a four-day cricket match against Ireland. On Saturday, after three days, they decided it was going nowhere, so they packed it in, and played a one-day match instead.

My colleague, Alan Lee, said it was like abandoning a 0-0 draw in a football match on the hour and playing a five-a-side exhibition instead. The analogy is good, although it breaks down at the point when one realises that five-a-side is different to the 11-man game, but not actually inferior.

Perhaps it was more like Nigel Short and Garry Kasparov agreeing after a couple of dozen moves that the match was set for stalemate. So why not play draughts? Or snakes and ladders? Or Coe and Ovett? I say, Seb, this unending rivalry stuff is getting to be a bit of a bore. Why don't we have a sack race instead? The punters will love it.

Yes, and we'll have next year's Derby on donkeys: to see if we can't bring in a few extra bob that way. And at Wimbledon, we get desperately fed up with all these eternal service-dominated games, so why not just have the fashion parade and the groupies and the strawberries, and forget about the tennis altogether?

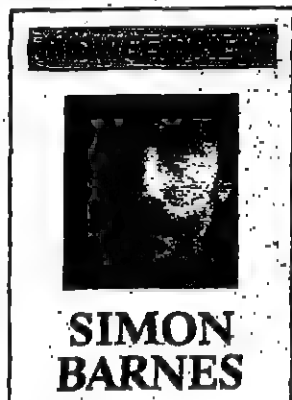
And on and on. We must, whatever we do, cater for people with a short attention span. Yes, yes, of course change the rules, of course change the game, even at half-time, if there is the remotest danger of uncommitted people being bored even for a second. Sport, after all, is first and foremost entertainment. Is it not? And these days we have to compete with *Gladiators* and the American wrestling on the television.

Have you ever been to a Fun Pub? A Fun Pub is a pub that is designed to look like something else. Say, a sailing ship, with bars called Ye Fore'sle and Ye Runt Locker. Or Victorian Life: Jack the

Ripper's Cellar, the Fanny by Gaslight Bar, Fun Pub, indeed! I don't go to a pub to have fun. I go for a drink. It is the same with sport. I don't go there to be entertained. Nor do I switch on the television to be entertained by sport. I switch on because I don't know the result.

In that match at Boland, England could have been bowled out in three overs for a desperate defeat. Or Crawley and Thorpe could have torn the Boland attack apart, Phil DeFreitas and all. Unlikely, but possible. But they didn't even try, and now we'll never know.

The idea that sport needs to be fun and that athletes are entertainers is a deep and dreadful heresy. I suppose there are people in the world who think an 11-hour innings to force a draw is a bit of a drag. In a way, it was. It certainly wasn't fun. But it was Atherton's masterpiece, and it was enthralling: high competition, high achievement. It is that sort of thing — not a six-bit competition — that is the stuff of cricket and of sport.



SIMON BARNES

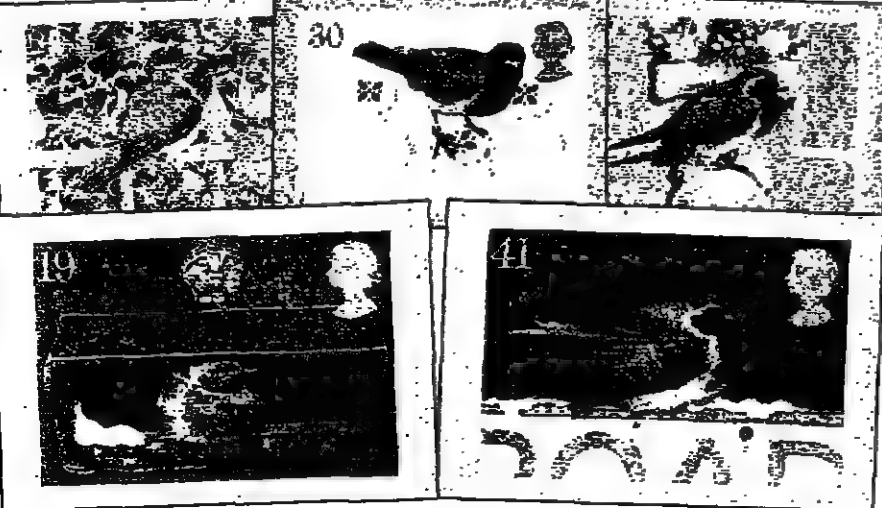
Sport has no obligation to entertain, only to enthrall. That is to say, an obligation to strive. Nottingham Forest's two-leg tie against Lyons was pretty boring in its way: 1-0 over two legs, and it was all about packing midfield and keeping tight at the back. No fun, but that was also, in its way, enthralling.

Do we conclude that football has it right? But football also changes the game in midstream, shifting from the real thing to a gaudy, cheapshot entertainment package, and does so at the highest peak of importance: the game can reach — the final of the World Cup. It is called the penalty shoot-out, and it is not football, and it is not enthralling at all. It's fun.

The penalty shoot-out, the Boland decision, and all such pack-em-in modifications to a sport — the designated hitter in baseball, the refueling stop in Formula One — are a betrayal: a betrayal of sport. Er, no, Ilingworth?

## THE TIMES

# A set of 5 Christmas stamp cards FREE



Today *The Times*, in association with Royal Mail, offers readers a set of five Christmas stamp cards worth £1.25. All you have to do is send a second class stamp to cover return postage.

The postcards (above) feature the robin, one of Britain's best loved birds and a traditional symbol of the festive season. In Victorian times the postman was given the nickname "Robin" and it was elected Britain's national bird in 1960 through *The Times* letters page.

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## Danes pose stern test of Olympic prospects

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

GREAT BRITAIN meet Denmark in Milton Keynes this evening in the second of their Olympic ice hockey qualifying games and will hope to build on the success against Holland in October.

Denmark are likely to provide stronger opposition than the disappointing Dutch. They have played one game in the competition, beating Slovenia 4-2 last month, when it was thought that Slovenia might be the strongest team in the group. That result indicates that the Danes have got their house in order after a period during which their national ice hockey programme was in some disarray.

Nevertheless, Peter Woods, the Great Britain coach, is confident. "I am very excited about the way things went last time out," he said, "and hopefully we can repeat our success."

That success against Holland was based on a three-day training camp before the game and, once again, 33 players have been invited to prepare at Milton Keynes. Nineteen of them are dual-nationals, with Steve Moria, 34, who acquired his British passport only recently, the latest addition to the squad.

Unfortunately, like so many Canadian-born players, Moria is now past his best in playing terms and little regard is being paid to the developing future of the domestic game. The meeting with Switzerland in Lausanne next week might put Britain's position into better perspective.

## Club crews favoured in Henley changes

By MIKE ROSEWELL  
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE Henley stewards yesterday agreed to an overhaul of the qualifying rules for four events at the Royal Regatta.

The 1995 regatta saw a record 544 crews from 18 nations and a profit of £179,000, but in the background there were mutterings of discontent over the eligibility of certain crews for the events that they entered.

The changes announced yesterday centre on the Thames and Temple Cups for eights and the Wyfold and Britannia Cups for coxless and coxed fours. The Thames and the Wyfold events will now be for club crews only. Any crews from academic institutions will be barred. In addition, these two events and the Britannia will be closed to crews from "any institute, association or similar body whose objective is to develop international representative crews." Some grey areas could remain for large clubs like Leander and London; indeed, for any smaller club that finds itself with international aspirants.

Crews entering the Thames and the Wyfold will also be allowed only two former internationals on board.

The Temple Cup eights remains for student crews, but no previous Henley winner, except of a schools event, and no British senior, under-23 or World Student Games performer will be allowed. Also debared are Oxford and Cambridge Blues, London University Purples and members of "analogous crews" from abroad.

## Calm Nicol puts himself first

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN BOMBAY

PETER NICOL, the Scottish squash champion who refused to play for his country in the world team championship last month to improve his fortunes on the individual circuit, justified his gamble here last night by beating Chris Walker in the final of the Mahindra Challenge at the Cricket Club of India.

The first British victory in a PSA Super Series event was the product of the first all-British final at such a level and, unusually, of a contest between left-handers.

Nicol, at 22, has won before on the world tour and at national open events in Singapore, the United States and, most recently, in Canada; but, by his own admission, this was his most satisfying moment since he broke into the senior game by securing a first European team championship for Scotland, during which they defeated England in the semi-finals for the first time, in May 1992.

"Probably this is the best," Nicol said last night after completing victory against the Englishman in 55 minutes by 15-8, 15-11, 15-10.

"It was hard to decide

against representing Scotland, but I knew I had to concentrate on the circuit to get my ranking back after a long problem with tonsillitis and time out for surgery in the summer."

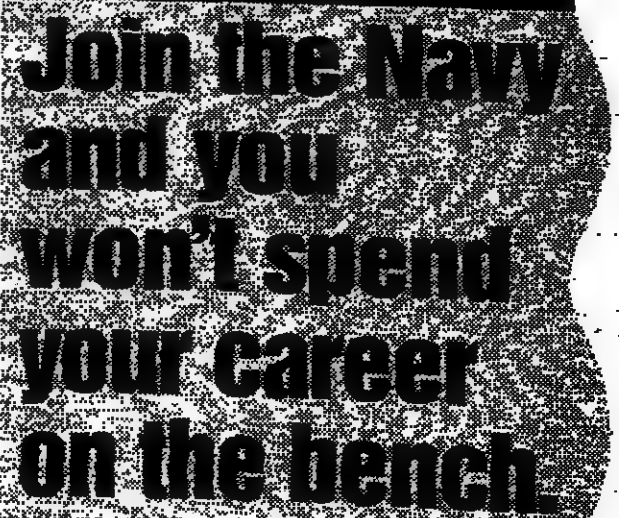
"I was still not fully fit when we started this leg of the tour and I didn't feel up to five weeks of non-stop squash, which is what most of the players have had since the World Open in Nicosia," Nicol explained.

Walker, 28, was showing signs from the start in this, his first Super Series final, of the demands of his quarter-final and semi-final matches, while Nicol's fitness was reinforced by the speedy removal of earlier opponents here.

The young Scot is an unspectacular, but relentlessly efficient performer at peak form and his overall control allows even the finest shots to mesh almost seamlessly into his rallying.

So complete was his command of the final stages of each game here that he won the opener in 16 minutes, from 9-7, in two hands, the second in 17 minutes from 6-7, also in two hands, and the third, in 18 minutes, from 10-7, finishing on a backhand shot deep in the right corner.

Walker, at game point in the first, was persuaded in desperation to conjure an attempted disguise so complex that he finished up hitting the ball backwards.



Nicol: gamble

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## West Ham manager rues defeat

## Angry Redknapp hits back after loss of Miklosko

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LUDEK MIKLOSKO is a mild-mannered sort, not the type to generate controversy or debate, but yesterday the big West Ham United goalkeeper was the focus of a renewed discussion over when a goalkeeper should be sent off and when he should not.

Dismissed on Monday night for a head-high tackle of Daniel Amokachi, Miklosko's early departure contributed to West Ham's summary 3-0 defeat by Everton at Goodison Park and Harry Redknapp, the club's manager, was still not the morning after the night before.

Mike Reed, the referee, showed Miklosko a red card two minutes before half-time, leaving Julian Dicks, the full back, to take up duties between the posts just in time to see David Unsworth sweep the ball past him from the penalty spot. His fumble allowed John Ebbrell to scramble in a third goal after the interval — Graham Stuart had scored the first — as West Ham struggled in vain to cope with Miklosko's loss.

"It was a harsh penalty decision," Redknapp com-

plained. "Ludo has never done anything wrong in his life. It spoils the game. He lost the ball and his bearings."

Dicks added: "I didn't think the sending off was fair. It changed the game and the referee had to make the decision."

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "I don't like to see keepers sent off, but I don't think the referee had any option. Daniel landed on his back and that could have been dangerous. I didn't think the result hinged on that decision. We were in control at that point."

West Ham, however, will not be appealing against the dismissal after the referee confirmed that the decision was taken because Miklosko denied Amokachi a goalscoring opportunity rather than for dangerous play, which will mean just a one-match ban.

The drama overshadowed the return of Duncan Ferguson to Everton's ranks. The Scotland striker made his reappearance on the FA Carling Premiership stage after his release from prison with

an appearance as a second-half substitute. He forced a good save out of Dicks, who dived to his right to smother a powerful header, but otherwise made little impression.

Ian Feuer is thinking over a £580,000 move to Luton Town after West Ham refused to guarantee the American first-team football at Upton Park. Feuer had been on loan at Luton for three months until last Sunday.

Roy Keane is hoping to be passed fit to play for Manchester United away to Liverpool on Sunday. Keane, 24, who last month underwent his second hernia operation this year, lost his battle to be fit for Ireland's European championship play-off against Holland at Anfield tonight, but he saw a specialist yesterday and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, is optimistic that Keane will be able to play.

"Roy has done well," Ferguson said. "He saw the specialist to check on his progress and to see if we can step up his training to the real heavy stuff. We have an A team game at home to Liverpool on Saturday and if Roy is given the go ahead, I'll be looking to try and give him an hour in that match. You never know, if he comes through that without mishap, he may be able to go with us to Liverpool on Sunday and sit on the substitutes' bench."

Ferguson admitted that he had been over-optimistic in predicting that Keane would be ready to play for Ireland this week. "I made a mistake in thinking Roy had his operation six weeks ago, which is why I was quite hopeful for the Ireland match, but it is actually only five weeks since the surgery and then he had to return home for a family funeral which delayed him further," he said.

Richard Edgill, the Manchester City defender, is likely to be out for the rest of the season with a knee injury. Edgill, 21, was carried off the pitch at Leeds ten days ago and City yesterday confirmed that he has a ruptured cruciate ligament that requires an operation.



Torvill and Dean, whose imaginative programme lit up the practice session yesterday

## Britons practise perfection

By JOHN HENNESSY

IF THEIR practice yesterday is anything to go by, another tour de force by Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean is in prospect at the Nutcracker Challenge of Champions professional ice skating competition at the London Arena tomorrow evening.

They produced so many innovations, freed from the restrictions once imposed by the International Skating Union, that one wonders anew at the inexhaustible fertile imagination that they can bring to ice dance.

Nor need they fear that some judge will find means to penalise them. "There are virtually no rules," Dean said. "Except that our programme should not fall short of three minutes and not exceed 4½ — and if it did, it wouldn't matter."

The British pair still seem to bear some psychological scars from their defeat in the 1994 Winter Olympic Games. "We were pleased with the way we skated," Torvill said, "and were very disappointed not to have won."

Yet that setback seems to have done them no harm since they have, if anything, commanded greater public support than they had done ten years earlier after their triumph in Sarajevo.

How long might they go on? "We'll skate again next year," Dean said, "and probably the year after that, but then Jayne will be pushing 40." It will be hard for them to stop, with professional skating growing at a remarkable and lucrative pace, notably in the United States. Only in Great Britain does there seem to be a decline

in interest. Torvill and Dean apart.

Torvill and Dean arrived in London after victory last week at the world professional championships in the United States. Tomorrow, as then, they will use music by Paul Simon (*Bridge Over Troubled Water*) but, by rule, which Dean seems momentarily to have overlooked, it has to be a different programme.

They face formidable opposition from Usov and Zhulin, Rahkamo and Kokko, and Annenko and Stetsenko, in competing for a first prize of \$40,000 (about £26,000).

Among those taking part in the three other events are Robin Cousins, Victor Petrenko, Kurt Browning, Katarina Witt, Denise Biellmann, Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler.

## Binns's late strike puts an end to Scottish resistance

England Under-21 ..... 21  
Scotland Under-21 ..... 18

By MARK SOUSTER

SCOTLAND'S litany of woe against England in recent years culminated at Gateshead last night when a dropped goal five minutes from time, by Simon Binns, their stand-off, that went over off a post, earned the home side a narrow victory in the first international between the countries at this level.

England, methodical, powerful and deliberate, were effective through the strength of their forwards, while the lighter Scottish divisions had to be content with living off their ingenuity.

England's dominance in the set piece told as early as the sixth minute, when they scored their first try. The English had rumbled into the Scots' 22 and, from a scrum, Scott Benton, the scrum half, slipped past the defence to score. Binns added the conversion.

Mike Duncan, a late replacement for the injured Chris Richards at stand-off, missed two penalty attempts, the first of which hit an upright, before the Scots deservedly scored their first try. Bulloch drove through a gap at a ruck to touch down. Duncan converted.

After 27 minutes, Binns kicked a penalty goal and England were 18-7 ahead at half-time with a try from Catling. A penalty goal and a dropped goal by Duncan reduced the arrears and, when England infringed at the ruck, Beveridge fed David McLeish for a try to make it 18-18, but then Binns settled the issue with his last dropped goal.

SCOTLAND UNDER-21: Five Ben. Catling, Conversion: Binns, Dropped goal: Binns, Penalty goal: Binns (2), Scotland Under-21: Bulloch, McLeish, Conversion: Duncan, Dropped goal: Duncan, Penalty goal: Duncan.

SCOTLAND UNDER-21: Five Ben. Catling, Conversion: Binns, Dropped goal: Binns, Penalty goal: Binns (2), Scotland Under-21: Bulloch, McLeish, Conversion: Duncan, Dropped goal: Duncan, Penalty goal: Duncan.

## Mushtaq inspires Pakistan triumph

MUSHTAQ AHMED, the Pakistan spinner, bowled his side to a 161-run victory over New Zealand in the one-off cricket Test match in Christchurch early yesterday. The leg spinner finished with seven for 56 as Pakistan secured their triumph in little more than an hour on the final day.

Waqar Younis became the youngest player, at 24, to take 200 Test wickets when he bowled Dion Nash, New Zealand, who needed 357 to win, were dismissed for 195, with Roger Twose providing the only prolonged resistance. He finished unbeaten on 51, his second half-century of the match.

## Moana signs

Rugby league: Halifax have signed the New Zealander, Martin Moana, from Auckland Warriors, for the remainder of the season and first two Super League campaigns, but are missing four seasoned international players, John Bentley, John Schuster, Paul Moriarty and John Fieldhouse, for the visit to Wigan tonight in the Stanes Championship. Kris Radlinski and Kelvin Skerrett return after injury for Wigan. Va'ata Tuigamala and Jason Robinson await late tests.

## Miami twice

American football: The Miami Dolphins revived their hopes of reaching the playoffs with a 13-6 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs late on Monday. It was the second consecutive victory for the Dolphins — one of the pre-season favourites to contest the Super Bowl — and their embattled coach, Don Shula. The win sets up a showdown on Sunday with Buffalo, who lead them by one game with two to play in the American Conference east division.

## False start

Motor racing: Jacques Villeneuve, the Formula One newcomer who will partner Damon Hill in the Williams Renault next year, emerged unscathed from a crash in practice at Estoril, Portugal yesterday, but damaged the front of his car. Hill, who was second-fastest of the day, 0.03sec behind Michael Schumacher, also skidded harmlessly off the Estoril track.

## FA declares support for ban on Hauge

GRAHAM KELLY, the chief executive of the Football Association, yesterday confirmed English clubs would be officially informed of the worldwide ban on the disgraced Norwegian agent, Rune Hauge.

Hauge was removed from the list of licensed agents by the executive committee of Fifa, the game's world governing body, at its meeting in Paris on Monday.

"We will send the Fifa circular to all our clubs notifying them of the various decisions taken," Kelly said, "but if any club does use the services of Mr Hauge and falls foul of Fifa, we cannot intervene on their behalf. We must do what Fifa says."

The Norwegian had been suspended by Fifa from acting in any transfers after it

was revealed he had paid £440,000 to George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, after the transfers of Falgaudren, of Norway, and John Jensen, the Danish midfielder player.

But Hauge ignored the suspension and used intermediaries in the transfers of Pontus Karmark, the Swedish international, to Leicester City, and Lars Bohinen to Blackburn Rovers from Nottingham Forest.

Fifa's response was to indefinitely ban Hauge from involvement in any transfer although no action will be taken over the Karmark and Bohinen deals. "We are making it clear that in future, any individuals or clubs who avoid our decisions will face the consequences themselves," a Fifa official said.

## FOR THE RECORD

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Miami 13 Kansas City 6

## BOXING

TOKYO: World Boxing Council featherweight championship (12 rds) Luisito Espinosa (Phi) vs Manuel Medina (Mex, retired) ps

## CRICKET

New Zealand v Pakistan

CHRISTCHURCH (first day) Pakistan beat New Zealand by 161 runs

Pakistan: 208 (Amir Sohail 88, Ramiz Raja 52, C. C. Cairns 45) and 434 (Javed Miandad 103, Imran-ul-Haq 82, Raza 62)

New Zealand: First innings 286 (C. L. Cairns 76, R. G. Twose 56, Waugh 48, 5-53)

Second Innings

B. A. Young, C. L. Cairns, M. J. Marshall 16

C. J. Spence, C. C. Cairns, M. J. Marshall 16

A. C. R. Flint, C. C. Cairns, M. J. Marshall 16

S. P. Flint, C. C. Cairns, M. J. Marshall 16

C. J. Spence, C. C. Cairns, M. J. Marshall 16

D. J. Nash, C. C. Cairns, M. J. Marshall 16

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## CURLING

GRINDELWALD, Switzerland: European championship. Second round: Scotland 4-1, Sweden 3-2, Norway 2-1, Finland 1-0, Czech Republic 0-1, Denmark 0-2, Germany 0-3, Austria 0-4, Switzerland 0-5, Netherlands 0-6, Slovenia 0-7, Slovakia 0-8, Hungary 0-9, Poland 0-10, Russia 0-11, Belarus 0-12, Ukraine 0-13, Latvia 0-14, Lithuania 0-15, Estonia 0-16, Latvia 0-17, Lithuania 0-18, Estonia 0-19, Latvia 0-20, Lithuania 0-21, Estonia 0-22, Latvia 0-23, Lithuania 0-24, Estonia 0-25, Latvia 0-26, Lithuania 0-27, Estonia 0-28, Latvia 0-29, Lithuania 0-30, Estonia 0-31, Latvia 0-32, Lithuania 0-33, Estonia 0-34, Latvia 0-35, Lithuania 0-36, Estonia 0-37, Latvia 0-38, Lithuania 0-39, Estonia 0-40, Latvia 0-41, Lithuania 0-42, Estonia 0-43, Latvia 0-44, Lithuania 0-45, Estonia 0-46, Latvia 0-47, Lithuania 0-48, Estonia 0-49, Latvia 0-50, Lithuania 0-51, Estonia 0-52, Latvia 0-53, Lithuania 0-54, Estonia 0-55, Latvia 0-56, Lithuania 0-57, Estonia 0-58, Latvia 0-59, Lithuania 0-60, Estonia 0-61, Latvia 0-62, Lithuania 0-63, Estonia 0-64, Latvia 0-65, 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Italy lead stiff opposition

# England face massive task in World Cup

By DAVID MILLER

ENGLAND found themselves up against the formidable, the familiar and the unfamiliar when the qualifying draw for the 1998 World Cup was made in Paris last night. A group of five including Italy, Poland, Georgia and Moldova will mean a tough route to the finals in France.

Although Terry Venables described the confrontation with Italy as "exciting", the fact is that Italian technique always creates problems for the English and, although the Italians have just finished second behind Croatia in their European championship qualifying group, they will give England another anxious passage.

Italy beat England 2-1 in their last encounter, the World Cup third place play-off of 1990 in Bari, when David Platt scored for England and an unhappy Peter Shilton made a crucial error in goal, yet the

abiding memory is of defeat in the World Cup qualifying competition of 1976-77 and in the opening match of the European finals in Turin in 1980. A bizarre selection by Don Revie in Rome in 1976, with six changes, saw England lose 2-0 and, by the time Ron Greenwood had succeeded the departing Revie by the following autumn, a 2-0 victory at Wembley was insufficient. Three years later, Keegan, Wilkins, Coppell and the rest went down 1-0.

So much will depend, as ever, on the sequence of fixtures, home and away, that will be negotiated some time next month. Poland, who have just finished fourth in their European championship qualifying group, they will give England another anxious passage.

meeting in the 1986 finals, when England won 3-0 with a hat-trick by Gary Lineker in the first round in Monterrey — while they also met in the European championship qualifiers under Graham Taylor in 1990-91.

"We're fortunate to be in a group of five and not a group of six," Venables said last night, immediately before facing Portugal in the friendly at Wembley. "The draw's a bit complicated and it would have made more sense to have had seven groups of seven with the top two going through [instead of five groups of five and four groups of six]."

"It's a tough group and our aim must be to top it. The prospect of two games with Italy is exciting and it wouldn't be the World Cup without facing Poland, yet the public by now understands, I think, that there are no soft games. Georgia and Moldova are good sides, they'll be strong and it will be hard going."

Asked whether he would be in charge for the World Cup — he is due to see the Football Association in the near future to discuss an extension of his contract — a smiling Venables said: "That's another question, whether I'm in charge remains to be seen."

A 1-1 draw in Katowice in 1993 was one of the results that led to Graham Taylor's team failing to qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States. Ian Wright came on as a substitute to score, but England went from Poland to Oslo, where they were defeated, Taylor making a selection more bizarre even than Revie's had been in Rome.

Georgia, who finished third behind Germany and Bulgaria in their recent European championship qualifying group, will be no pushover. Dinamo Tbilisi used to be one of the renowned Soviet club teams and Georgia put five goals past Wales at home, one of their five victories in that group. Moldova finished fourth in the same European group, beating Wales 3-2 at home. Either of the away matches in eastern Europe could present a pitfall for England.

Scotland and Wales are also in groups of five, but Wales will be hard-pressed to make headway against Holland, Belgium and Turkey. Scotland, qualifiers for the European championship, are up against Sweden, but should finish no worse than second ahead of Finland and declining Hungary.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, said: "Let's just say it's interesting. There will be six tricky games but none of those sides will relish coming to Wales."

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, described his country's draw as "fair". "Sweden, having failed to qualify for the European championship finals, certainly won't want to fall again. They are going to be formidable opponents. Don't forget they were third in the world after the last World Cup so they're a very dangerous side, but I'd say it's a group we have a chance of winning."

The two Irish teams are both in groups of six. The Republic have the easier group, in which Romania are the seeded team, but Northern Ireland are up against Germany, Portugal and Ukraine.



Bassett ponders his future after calling it a day at Sheffield United by "mutual agreement" with the new board. Photograph: Ross Parry

## Bassett goes after eight-year reign

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ALL that three Endsleigh Insurance League first division clubs want for Christmas is a new manager. With the departure of Dave Bassett from Bramall Lane yesterday, Sheffield United joined Leicester City and Wolverhampton Wanderers in the search for fresh leadership, with 12 shopping days remaining to give their supporters the ideal seasonal gift.

Bassett, 51, left Sheffield United, who are second from bottom in the division, by "mutual consent" after eight years in the job. He is the thirteenth manager to leave his club this season and was immediately touted as the likely replacement for Mark McGhee at Leicester. McGhee, in turn, could be installed at Wolverhampton today.

"I leave reluctantly, but with my head held high," Bassett

said. "I know I've done my best with the resources made available to me. I feel it's best that myself and the club part and it is an amicable split on both sides."

Although Bassett led the club into the FA Carling Premiership from the old third division in successive seasons, and into the FA Cup semi-finals in 1993, he had become increasingly disillusioned with the lack of money for strengthening the team. Continuous board-room bickering, as a takeover rumoured for months, only added to his frustration.

The ownership of the club has now been settled, with Mike McDonald buying Reg Breasley's 52 per cent interest last week, but it came too late to influence Bassett's decision. Stephen Hinchcliffe, the vice-chairman, said: "With the establishment of a new board, both parties felt that events

had run their natural course. Dave has made an outstanding contribution over the past eight years."

A colourful, cor-blimey character, noted for his straight talking and succinct comments when used as a television or radio analyst, Bassett could not have left at a more appropriate time. Leicester and Wolverhampton

Day of reckoning — 44  
Redknapp hits back — 45

are believed to be close to agreement over compensation for the loss of McGhee and his assistants, Colin Lee and Mike Hickman, who resigned en bloc last week.

Yesterday, Martin George, the Leicester chairman, belatedly and reluctantly agreed to give Wolverhampton permission to speak to McGhee, the former Scotland striker, who

left Reading, with Lee and Hickman, in similarly fraught circumstances a year ago.

Yet, although Bassett is favourite to take over at Filbert Street, Mike Walker, the former Norwich City and Everton manager, and Ian Porterfield, the former Reading, Chelsea and Zambia national team manager, have also entered the equation.

"Leicester haven't contacted me, but if they did, I would be pleasantly surprised," Walker, who was dismissed by Everton 13 months ago, said.

"I'd be pleased to have a crack at it. I still think I've got a good pedigree as a manager. If you get offered a job, it's normally because a team is struggling; it would be a nice change to take over a team somewhere near the top."

Howard Kendall, another former Everton manager, has been mooted as a possible successor to Bassett at Bramall Lane. He has not

worked since an unhappy three-month stint in charge at Notts County came to an abrupt end when he was dismissed in April — one of 54 managerial changes between August and May last season.

Chris Coleman, the Wales and Crystal Palace central defender, was also close to finalising a move yesterday, having been to Ewood Park for a medical that was expected to rubber-stamp his £2.5 million transfer to Blackburn Rovers.

Late attempts by Middlesbrough, West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur to persuade him to join them appear to have failed.

At least Peterborough United, the Endsleigh Insurance second division club, had something concrete to report. Mick Halsall, 34, their caretaker manager since John Still resigned seven weeks ago, has been handed the task on a permanent basis.

### 1998 WORLD CUP DRAW

32 teams will take part

EUROPE  
Fourteen qualifiers plus France, who qualify automatically as hosts.  
Group one: Denmark, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia.  
Group two: Italy, England, Poland, Georgia.  
Group three: Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Hungary, Azerbaijan.  
Group four: Sweden, Scotland, Austria, Latvia.  
Group five: Belarus, Estonia, Group six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.

Group seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group ten: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group eleven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group twelve: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group thirteen: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group fourteen: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group fifteen: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group sixteen: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group seventeen: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group eighteen: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group nineteen: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group twenty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group twenty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group twenty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group twenty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group twenty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group twenty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group twenty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group twenty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group twenty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group twenty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group thirty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group thirty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group thirty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group thirty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group thirty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group thirty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group thirty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group thirty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group thirty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group thirty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group forty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group forty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group forty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group forty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group forty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group forty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group forty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group forty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group forty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group forty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group fifty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group fifty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group fifty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group fifty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group fifty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group fifty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group fifty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group fifty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group fifty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group fifty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group sixty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group sixty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group sixty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group sixty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group sixty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group sixty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group sixty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group sixty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group sixty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group sixty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group seventy: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group seventy-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group seventy-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group seventy-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group seventy-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group seventy-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group seventy-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group seventy-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group seventy-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group seventy-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group eighty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group eighty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group eighty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group eighty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group eighty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group eighty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group eighty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group eighty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group eighty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group eighty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group ninety: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group ninety-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group ninety-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group ninety-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group ninety-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group ninety-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group ninety-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group ninety-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group ninety-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group ninety-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and ten: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and eleven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twelve: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and thirteen: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fourteen: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifteen: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixteen: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and seventeen: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and eighteen: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and nineteen: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twenty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and twenty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and twenty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twenty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and twenty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and twenty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twenty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and thirty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and thirty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and thirty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and thirty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and forty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and forty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and forty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and forty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and fifty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and fifty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and fifty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and fifty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and sixty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and sixty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and sixty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and sixty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and seventy: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and seventy-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and seventy-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and seventy-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and seventy-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and seventy-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and seventy-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and seventy-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and seventy-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and seventy-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and eighty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and eighty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and eighty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and eighty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and eighty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and eighty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and eighty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and eighty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and eighty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and eighty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and ninety: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and ninety-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and ninety-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and ninety-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and ninety-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and ninety-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and ninety-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and ninety-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and ninety-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and ninety-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and two hundred: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and twenty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and twenty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twenty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and twenty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and twenty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twenty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and thirty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and thirty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and thirty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and thirty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and forty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and forty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and forty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and forty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and fifty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and fifty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and fifty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and fifty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and sixty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and sixty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and sixty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and sixty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and seventy: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and seventy-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and seventy-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and seventy-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and seventy-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and seventy-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and seventy-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and seventy-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and seventy-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and seventy-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and eighty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and eighty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and eighty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and eighty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and eighty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and eighty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and eighty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and eighty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and eighty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and eighty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and ninety: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and ninety-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and ninety-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and ninety-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and ninety-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and ninety-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and ninety-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and ninety-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and ninety-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and ninety-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and two hundred: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and twenty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and twenty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twenty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and twenty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and twenty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and twenty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and twenty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and thirty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and thirty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and thirty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and thirty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and thirty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and thirty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and forty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and forty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and forty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and forty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and forty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and forty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-one: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and fifty-two: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and fifty-three: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty-four: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-five: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and fifty-six: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and fifty-seven: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and fifty-eight: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and fifty-nine: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-one: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and sixty-two: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and sixty-three: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty-four: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-five: Ireland, Lithuania.

Group one hundred and sixty-six: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg.  
Group one hundred and sixty-seven: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faroe Islands.  
Group one hundred and sixty-eight: Holland, Turkey, Wales, San Marino.  
Group one hundred and sixty-nine: Ireland, Lithuania.